

2021 Annual Report



THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INCORPORATED

ABN 62 145 872 663

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2021

Council has the honour to present its report to Members upon the activities of the Society during its 167th year of operation.

Patron

The Hon Linda Dessau AC
Governor of Victoria

Council

OFFICE BEARERS

President

Mr R. Gell AM, BSc (Hons)

Vice-President

Dr C. de Burgh-Day, BSc, MSc, PhD

Immediate Past President

Mr D. Zerman, MPH

Honorary Secretary

Mr J. Luckins BA (Hons), BSc, PhD

Honorary Treasurer

Mr S. Verma, BEng (Civil), MMM

Members

Dr S. Frentz, BSc (Hons), PhD

Dr V. Perunicic, BSc, MSc, PhD

A/Prof. R. Day, BSc (Hons), PhD

A/Prof. G. Smith, BPS, GradDip, MEH, PhD (until October)

Dr K. Orrman-Rossiter, BAppPhys, MAppSci, PostgradDip, PhD

Prof. D. Walker, BSc, PhD, DSc

Dr J. Canestra, MBBS, MPH. FACEM

Returning Officer

Dr W. D. Birch AM, BSc (Hons), PhD

Chief Executive Officer

Mr M. Flattley, BA, GradCertDes(MultiMedia), GCertTerEd(Mgt)

Trustees

Dr A. S. Finkel AO, PhD

Prof. L. Selwood AO, MSc, PhD

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Fellows of the Royal Society of Victoria*

1996	Jerry M. Adams	2017	Peter C. Doherty
	Suzanne Cory	2018	Lynne Selwood
	Gustav Nossal	2019	Sandra Rees
	Graeme I. Pearman	2020	Pauline Ladiges
	John A. Talent		Tom Beer
1999	James M. Bowler		Jennifer Graves
2001	Martin R. Harris		Peter Thorne
	Barry O. Jones	2021	Rachel Webster
	John F. Lovering		William Birch
2004	Thomas A. Darragh		Nicola Williams
2005	Murray J. Littlejohn		Peter Baines
2008	David V. Boger		
2010	Milton T. W. Hearn		

The Society was delighted to appoint **Professor Rachel Webster AO, Dr William Birch AM, Mrs Nicola Williams** and **Dr Peter Baines** as our 2020 Fellows in recognition of their long service to the Society and its aims and mission to promote the sciences. Due to the pandemic, their induction has been delayed until the Annual General Meeting to be held in 2022.

**please note that deceased Fellows are not listed. For the comprehensive list of RSV Fellows, please review our website: <https://rsv.org.au/about-us/fellows/>*



From the President

Mr Rob Gell AM MRSV

My first report as President of the Royal Society of Victoria allows me to reflect not only on the activities of the Society over the last twelve months but also the transformation that has occurred in our broader society. We have successfully operated within the constraints of a global pandemic, albeit with the inability to use our building, and now we face new external impacts driven by a war in Europe. In 2022 we also face both a

Federal and a Victorian parliamentary election, where new issues will be presented and discussed. Indeed, we are in a time of global change.

There are two critical issues preoccupying broad sections of the community that are of particular concern to scientists: anthropogenic global warming and how best to manage it in parallel with the critical condition of the planet's natural systems. The United Nations Climate Summit in Glasgow last year and the recent Sixth Assessment Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the physical science basis - impact, adaptation, vulnerability and, finally, mitigation opportunities of a changing climate - leave us in no doubt that we face an existential crisis. The adequacy of a 2050 net-zero emissions target is a discussion for another place.

In parallel, as the planet's sixth great extinction event unfolds, preparatory negotiations are under way for the establishment of a Paris Accord-style agreement for nature. In August 2022, the fifteenth Convention of the Parties on Biodiversity will continue the United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Kunming, China, the main objective of the which is to adopt the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Biodiversity protection targets over the first two decades of this millennium have been remarkably unsuccessful. The conference recognises:

... that urgent policy action globally, regionally and nationally is required to transform economic, social and financial models so the trends that have exacerbated biodiversity loss will stabilize by 2030 and allow for the recovery of natural ecosystems, with net improvements by 2050.

Unfortunately, biodiversity loss in Australia is a crisis that is neither well recognised nor well understood; it's almost never discussed. Perhaps this is why our record is so poor; particularly in Victoria, which has the highest proportion of cleared land and lowest percentage of public land in the Commonwealth.

In response, the Council of the Royal Society of Victoria has begun a focused program to establish new Position Papers on critical issues. After polling our members on priorities in late 2021, we have confirmed the first outing will be concerned with biodiversity and we are looking forward to our intersectoral **Members' Forum: Biodiversity Conservation and Recovery** on June 4th, 2022. In parallel, the RSV will endeavour to broker support to meet the goals of the Victorian Government's *Biodiversity 2037* plan and the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability's recommendations to the Victorian government for improving its performance.

The Society's role as an organisation required to promote science in Victoria is being redefined by your Council with the great support of our Chief Executive Officer, **Mike Flattley**. The Council and its Executive members now meet less formally, more often, in order to effectively support Mike to both maintain our programs and develop new ones. Our program of online lectures throughout 2021 was exceptional and I invite you to review them on our website as thousands of our fellow Victorians do. Our hallmark delivery of 'Science Week' was again a highlight of the year and we are looking for extended support from government for the 2022 'Inspiring Victoria' program. We have established that government's return on investment in 'Inspiring Victoria' over the past four years has been 1063 percent - on promotional value alone.

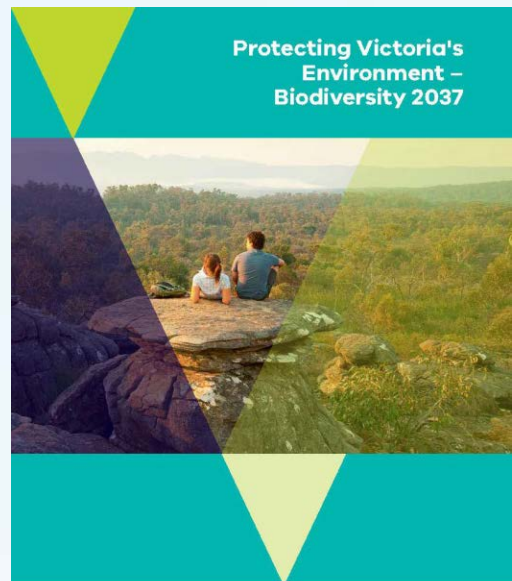
This Annual Report contains more detail on the programs, events and the awards programs we have delivered. I am grateful for the enthusiastic support that both seasoned and new members of the Society's Council have offered me and the organisation over the past twelve months. I believe we're now working valuably as a team, endeavouring to explore new possibilities for the promotion and advancement of science in our state in parallel with our efforts to establish new financial models that will contribute to the Society's resilience and efficacy.

I wish to thank retiring Councillors Dr **Gavin Smith**, Dr **Sophia Frentz** and Dr **Kevin Orrman-Rossiter** for their years of service to the Society and Mr **David Zerman** for his outstanding four-year term as President. David continues to provide wise counsel as our Immediate Past President, and I am most grateful for his continuing contribution.

I am indeed privileged to now be the President of the Royal Society of Victoria and I look forward to working with our members, Council and dedicated team over the next period in this important endeavour.

Acknowledgements

The Society's thanks and appreciation are due to the organisations that contributed their valuable



partnership and assistance to the Society's projects and aims during the year, notably:

Science into Action

Decibel Architecture

City of Melbourne

The Council wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the continued maintenance of our grounds, made publicly accessible by the Society as part of the City of Melbourne's open space program.

Administration

Mr Mike Flattley, Chief Executive Officer

Mr James McArthur, Business and Facilities Manager

Our grateful thanks to the following staff who completed their tenure with the Society in 2021:

Ms Malourie Crawford, Events & Functions Manager

Ms Rena Singh, Inspiring Victoria Manager

This Report is approved by Council for presentation to Members at the 2021 Annual General Meeting to be conducted Thursday 26th May, 2022.

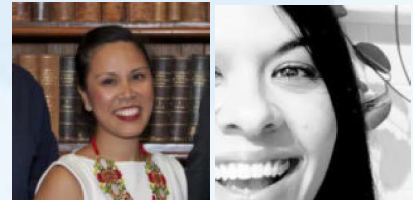
Rob Gell, President



From the CEO

Mr Mike Flattley

While we must always sustain our optimism and appetite for new ways of working, 2021 was a sobering year of realisation that the world will never be quite the same again; in the RSV’s small corner of the planet, this meant accepting that the market for our venue hire and event management services has all but disappeared entirely, meaning we were regrettably obliged to bid two of our loyal and dedicated staff members a sad farewell to constrain our costs to a much smaller revenue base. So, please let me start with expressing my gratitude to our long-serving events manager Ms **Malourie Crawford** and our Inspiring Victoria manager Ms **Rena Singh** for their loyal service and resilience throughout these difficult times – I know I join many of our members and partners in missing you both, and with you the best for the rewarding new roles you have secured with organisations that will benefit immensely from your skills, insights and warm camaraderie.



We continue to deliver our programs under constrained circumstances; with our staff base reduced to our dedicated Caretaker, Business & Membership Manager Mr **James McArthur**, and yours truly, our capacity to activate our facilities is not simply limited by density limits on indoor gathering, nor the world’s longest period of pandemic lockdown to date. Our clientele once populated a now-deserted CBD, which had earlier cross-subsidised our efforts to gather our members and guests to enjoy an annual cycle of private and public events. We are no longer in a position to deliver these services on site, despite advanced preparations for offering “hybrid events” that combine the convenience of joining a livestreamed Zoom meeting from a remote location with the natural frisson of attending a live event in our lovely old building. It has been a most frustrating time for so many of us, with much effort expended in constantly adapting and readapting to changing conditions. With constant upkeep of a heritage building required, we must now accept that our headquarters have effectively switched its status from asset to liability until our market returns, or alternative funding sources are secured.



We are, of course, much more than a venerable building in the City of Melbourne. As an Incorporated Association and Learned Society with a statewide membership base, we continue to sustain the important partnerships and outreach programs that enable us to fulfil our mission to promote the sciences. We have worked hard to adapt, streamline and improve, and have a lot to be proud of.

We completed the fourth year of delivering National Science Week and the statewide Inspiring Victoria program, and our [four year report](#) demonstrated that a total investment of \$1.3M over the 2018 – 2021 period by the RSV and its government partners returned a benefit of \$14.7M by the most conservative measure, representing a 1063% return on investment in this vibrant community science engagement program.

We convened the first joint, national symposium with other Australian Royal Societies in what must surely be many decades, looking at the conservation and care of lands and waters across the Australian continent with fresh eyes and an inclusive agenda with First Nations colleagues in delivering the **Stewardship of Country** series.



We built and delivered an exceptional online program with unprecedented engagement across Victoria, Australia and the world, particularly via our YouTube channel.

Our monthly newsletter, freshly renamed *Science Victoria*, has offered a vibrant platform for articles, events, news and notices to help keep us all connected to Victoria’s science community.

We also welcomed many new members and a range of active volunteer members from across education, corporate and government sectors to help us reassess and renew our focus. We have extensively workshopped, brainstormed, planned, strategised, prepared proposals and bids, and negotiated funding support to win further time to secure firmer footing. What follows is work to date on our “strategy on a page,” courtesy of one of our newest Council members, Mr **Richard Blundell** MRSV:



My thanks to all members of the Society’s Future Focus Committee and the RSV’s Council for engaging in these processes under the energetic leadership of our new Executive Committee: **Rob Gell, Catherine de Burgh-Day, Sid Verma** and **Jeffrey Luckins**, with our Immediate Past President **David Zerman** providing much-valued corporate memory. Your enthusiasm has been a tonic and we are collectively in your debt for sustaining our drive to win progress in this challenging era.

To all our members, supporters and partners – its been humbling to sustain your support, involvement and collaboration over the past two years. Please accept my grateful thanks for your commitment to the goals of our membership organisation and the delivery of our science engagement programs; I hope the year ahead offers us all an opportunity to settle our lives and many endeavours into a new, productive rhythm.

- **Mike Flattley, CEO**

2020 Annual General Meeting

The 164th Annual General Meeting was convened on 13th May, 2021.

President Mr Rob Gell AM, Vice-President Dr Catherine de Burgh-Day, Treasurer Mr Siddharth Verma and Councillors Associate Professor Robert Day and Dr Viktor Perunicic were inducted for a two-year term as Ordinary Members of Council at the AGM.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2020 were received and adopted.

Research Medal

Dr K. Orrman-Rossiter (Chair), A. Professor R. Day, Professor R. Reina, Dr C. de Burgh-Day, Dr S. Frentz, Dr V. Perunicic

Following assessment of the excellent submissions received, the panel was pleased to recommend to Council that **Professor Andy Ball** be awarded the Royal Society of Victoria’s Medal for Excellence in Scientific Research in **Category I: Biological (Non-human) Sciences**. In the Medal’s 62nd year, the presentation to Professor Ball was made by Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change and Minister for Solar Homes, the **Hon. Lily D’Ambrosio MP**. Our Medallist presented his work to the Society in a lecture titled “Bioremediation: Restoring Contaminated Ecosystems, Naturally.”



Science Program

2021 Lecture Series

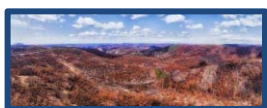
Once again, we embraced the online delivery of our public lecture series in the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. We had an excellent line-up of speakers and topics to enjoy throughout the year, professionally filmed and delivered to audiences through the welcome support of and partnership with the Inspiring Victoria program. The majority of these are termed the “Ordinary Meetings” of the RSV’s membership, with others convened as special events, often in partnership with or the support of aligned organisations and groups.

“Ordinary Meetings” of the Royal Society of Victoria



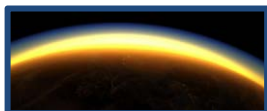
11 March: **Championing Translation & Commercialisation of Australian Medical Research**

Dr Rebecca Tunstall, Senior Director of Stakeholder Engagement, MTP Connect



25 March: **Changing Forests in a Changing Climate: What Might the Future Hold?**

Professor Patrick Baker, Professor of Silviculture and Forest Ecology, The University of Melbourne.



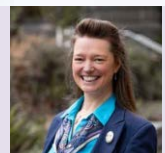
8 April: **The Anthropocene: Where on Earth are we Going?**

Emeritus Professor Will Steffen, Australian National University.



22 April: **Surviving the Journey: Protecting Astronauts from Space Radiation**

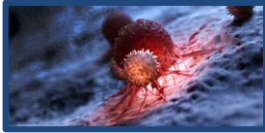
Dr Gail Iles, Senior Lecturer in Physics, RMIT University



13 May: **Why the World Needs Ecologists**

Professor Brendan Wintle, Director of the Threatened Species Recovery Hub at the University of Melbourne.





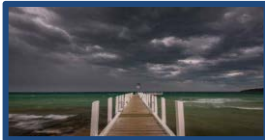
27 May: *Location, Location, Location: Immune Protection by Tissue-Resident T-Cells*

Professor **Laura Mackay**, Laboratory Head, The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity.



10 June: *Liveable Cities for All: Are we There Yet?*

Professor **Billie Giles-Corti**, Director of the Healthy Liveable Cities Research Group at the Centre for urban Research, RMIT University.



24 June: *Coastal Resilience: How Landforms Cope with Changing Waves and Rising Seas*

The 2021 **Howitt Lecture**, featuring A/Professor **David Kennedy**, Director of the Office for Environmental Programs at the University of Melbourne.



23 July: *Decarbonising Energy: At the Tipping Point*

Mr **Simon Holmes à Court**, Senior Advisor to the Climate and Energy College, Energy Transition Hub, The University of Melbourne.



17 August: *Young Scientist Research Prizes: 2021 Competition and Award Ceremony*

Mr **Owen Missen** (Monash University), Ms **Kimberley Reid** (The University of Melbourne), Ms **Sike Li** (Monash University), Ms **Sarah McDonald** (The University of Melbourne), Ms **Sumaiya Kabir** (RMIT University), Mr **Mark Vidallon** (Monash University), Ms **Lauren Bleakley** (The University of Melbourne), Mr **Ronnie Low** (The University of Melbourne)



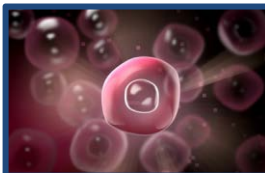
16 September: *From Dump to Paradise: Saving the Eastern Barred Bandicoot from Extinction*

Dr **Amy Coetsee**, Threatened Species Biologist, Zoos Victoria.



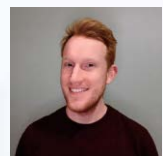
23 September: *Foodprint Melbourne: Building the Resilience of Melbourne's Food System*

Dr **Rachel Carey**, Lecturer in Food systems, The University of Melbourne.



25 November: *Improving Drug Discovery: A Molecular Understanding of Cell Surface Receptors*

Dr **Christopher Draper-Joyce**, ARC DECRA Fellow, Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health (**Phillip Law Postdoctoral Award Lecture**)



9 December: *Bioremediation: Restoring Contaminated Ecosystems, Naturally*

Professor **Andy Ball**, Director of the ARC Training Centre for the Transformation of Australia's Biosolids Resource, RMIT University (**RSV Research Medal Lecture**)



Joint Presentations

Fascinating joint lectures included our enduring collaboration with the **Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering**, this year hearing from energy markets and futures specialist Mr **Simon Holmes a Court**; and the **Geological Society of Australia Inc (Victoria Division)** for the annual **Howitt Lecture**, featuring the work of A/Professor **David Kennedy** (University of Melbourne) on coastal geomorphology.

The Young Scientist Research Prizes

Our annual YSRP competition was held on 19th August, once again as part of **National Science Week**. Open to students in the final year of their PhD candidature, in 2021 there were 38 entries across all four categories: Biological Sciences (non-human); Physical Sciences, Earth Sciences and Biomedical & Health sciences.

We are most grateful to our colleagues with requisite disciplinary expertise who variously acted as assessors for the short list and joined the judging panel on the night of the final.

Thanks go out to Richard Reina, Jane Canestra, Andy Gleadow, Clive Wilmott, Kevin Orrman-Rossiter, Catherine de Burgh-Day, Robert Day, Sophia Frentz, David Walker, Bill Birch, Gavin Smith, Sandra Rees and Viktor Perunicic for assisting us with this challenging yet rewarding work.

Two finalists from each category presented pre-filmed, 10-minute talks to an audience of family, peers, supervisors and RSV members. All finalists were each presented with two years' membership of the RSV and a prize certificate by our President, Mr Rob Gell. The first prize winners received prize money of \$1,000, with second prize winners each receiving \$500.

Finalists:

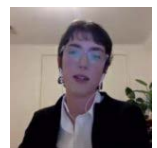
Biological Sciences (non-human):



First Place: **Sarah McDonald**

School of BioSciences, The University of Melbourne

"Metal contaminants in urban stormwater runoff: composition, dynamics and potential threat to local aquatic species."



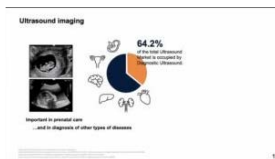
Second Place: **Sike Li**

School of Earth, Atmosphere & Environment, Monash University

"Improving estimates of grassland curing for Victoria, Australia using satellite remote sensing."



Physical Sciences:



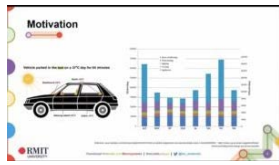
First Place: **Mark Vidallon**

School of Chemistry, Monash University

"Smart hybrid micro- and nanomaterials for next generation ultrasound imaging."



YSRP Finalists with assessors and RSV officers, from top left: Mr Mike Flattley, Ms Catriona Nguyen-Robertson, Mr Mark Vidallon, Ms Sumaiya Kabir, Mr Owen Missen, Mr David Zerman, Ms Lauren Bleakley, Mr Ronnie Low, Ms Kimberley Reid, Ms Sarah McDonald, Ms Sike Li, Dr Bill Birch, Professor Richard Reina, Professor David Walker, Dr Catherine de Burgh-Day, Dr Kevin Orrman-Rossiter, Professor Andrew Gleadow, Dr Gavin Smith, Mr Rob Gell, Professor Sandra Rees, A/Professor Rob Day



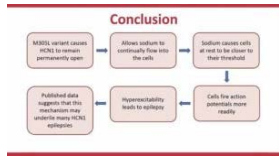
Second Place: **Sumaiya Kabir**

School of Engineering, RMIT University

“Exploring novel materials for energy saving self-regulated smart window coatings.”



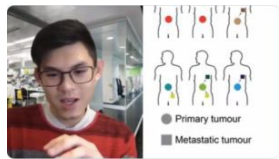
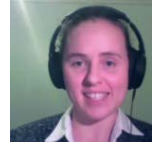
Biomedical and Health Sciences:



First Place: **Lauren Bleakley**

Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, The University of Melbourne

“Cation leak underlies neuronal hyperexcitability in an HCN1 developmental and epileptic encephalopathy.”

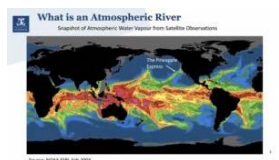


Second Place: **Ronnie Low**

Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, The University of Melbourne

“Understanding pancreatic cancer using murine and patient-derived organoid models.”

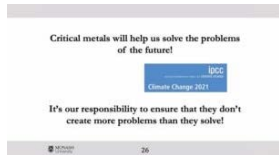
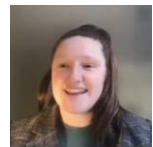
Earth Sciences:



First Place: **Kimberley Reid**

School of Geography, Earth & Atmospheric Science, The University of Melbourne

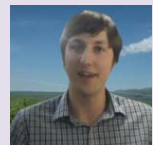
“The Impacts of Atmospheric Rivers over Australia & New Zealand.”



Second Place: **Owen Missen**

School of Earth, Atmosphere & Environment, Monash University

“The Critical Metal Tellurium in Earth’s Surface Environments: a thorough Biogeochemical Study from Mineralogy to Microbes.”



Congratulations to all. Our thanks once again to the Committee members, assessors and judges for their efforts and input in support.

The Phillip Law Postdoctoral Award

The award (\$3000), for postdoctoral candidates within the first seven years of the conferring of their PhD, is made possible by the generous bequest of Dr Phillip Garth Law, a former President of the Society and Director of the Australian Antarctic Division. In 2021, the Society broadened the Award from a sole focus on the physical sciences to take in the same four categories as our Research Medal and the Young Scientist Research Prizes, thereby



Dr Chris Draper-Joyce presenting his work to the Society in the Cudmore Library.

“filling the gap” between PhD completion and peak research career achievements across the sciences. We started the new process in Category II: Biomedical & Health Sciences, with eligible submissions assessed by a panel comprising Dr Jane Canestra, Professor David Walker and Professor Sandra Rees, to whom we are most grateful.

2021’s winner was Dr **Christopher Draper-Joyce** (ARC DECRA Fellow, Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health), who delivered an excellent presentation to us titled “Improving Drug Discovery: A Molecular Understanding of Cell Surface Receptors.”

We thank all our speakers for the time and effort that they put into their presentations in 2021 and the opportunity that it affords us to stay informed of the research being undertaken in Victoria, Australia and around the world. In broadcasting our lectures online, we bring a far greater audience engagement with our speakers, aiming to augment the reputation of Victoria’s outstanding scientists and the public profile of their work – we are always delighted to hear of our speakers going from strength to strength following their engagements with the Society.

2021 Special Events

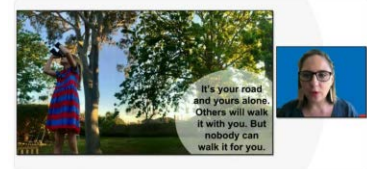
Supplemental lectures, cultural events and partner presentations

11 February: International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Secondary students and teachers were invited to join this senior Victorian forum to explore the opportunities and challenges for girls and women in exploring careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine and Mathematics (STEM). Delivered in 2021 by the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, **Dr Gillian Sparkes** in partnership with the Royal Society of Victoria. The event is an annual collaboration between the Commissioner, Victoria’s Lead Scientist **Dr Amanda Caples** and Victoria’s Chief Environmental Scientist **Dr Andrea Hinwood**.



Immunologist [@DrMistyJenkins](#) never thought she'd end up running her own laboratory one day - a "girl from the bush" & the first in her family to go to university, she says we're all born scientists - curiosity, observation, experimentation & analysis are who we are. #IDWGS2021



23 March: Science into Management: Research on Victoria’s Public Land

Research and data are central to the [Victorian Environmental Assessment Council](#)'s role in providing authoritative advice and recommendations on public land. In this series of five-minute talks, we heard from twenty postgraduate students, public land managers and scientists who conduct research on public land. Co-sponsored by the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research, Museums Victoria, the Royal Society of Victoria, and the Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability, Victoria.

1 April: Platypus and the Changing Environment – What’s Needed to Help Populations Thrive in Future?

Dr Richard Marchant (Senior Curator, Entomology, Museums Victoria) and **Dr Melody Serena** (Conservation Biologist, Australian Platypus Conservancy) discussed the factors vital to maintain healthy platypus populations, based on over 30 years research in Victoria and NSW. A part of the Climate Action and Environment Program delivered in partnership between Museums Victoria, The Royal Society of Victoria, Inspiring Victoria and Neighbourhood Houses Victoria.





Midsumma Lectures

Through the efforts of Dr **Sophia Frenz** and Ms **Catriona Nguyen-Robertson**, the RSV once again extended its support to **Queers in Science**, along with the Melbourne Museum and Inspiring Victoria, to host the second series of lectures making visible the outstanding work of scholars who identify as members of the LGBTQIA+ community. This was offered as a part of the annual Midsumma Festival program held (unseasonably) over April and May due to pandemic conditions.

Featuring:

21 April: Australia's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Professor **Michael J Toole**, Burnet Institute & Adjunct Professor, School of Public Health, Monash University

Professor **Deborah Williamson**, Director of Microbiology, Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity/ Royal Melbourne Hospital/University of Melbourne



5 May: Ecology Now

Guy Ritani, Creative Director of PermaQueer

Professor **Bob Wong**, Head, Behavioural Ecology Research Group, Monash University

20 May: Next-Gen Spatial Tech for Forest Management

Three proponents of powerful new systems for environmental monitoring discussed potential applications for the management of water resources, forest growth rates and bushfire risks, enabling our forest estates to adapt and persist through rapidly changing conditions. **Featuring:**

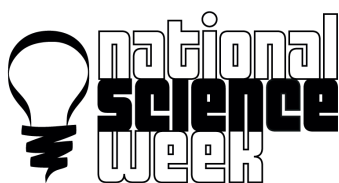
Professor **Nicholas Coops**, Canada Research Chair in Remote Sensing & Head pro tem, Department of Forest Resources Management, University of British Columbia

Professor **Allison Kealy**, Acting Chief Research Officer & Research Program Director for Advanced Satellite Systems, Sensors & Intelligence, SmartSat CRC

Mr **Rob Gell** AM, Director Attentis Pty Ltd & ReThink Sustainability Pty Ltd

Chair: Dr **Peter Woodgate**, Chair of SmartSat CRC & Steering Committee for 2030 Space and Spatial Industry Growth Roadmap

Presented in partnership with the Institute of Foresters of Australia and Inspiring Victoria



National Science Week 2021

While the RSV manages National Science Week as a component of the Inspiring Victoria program, we also contribute our own events to the festival each year. In addition to the Young Scientist Research Prizes, our events this year included:

13 August: Indigenous Food and Agriculture

A special webinar on Indigenous agriculture, yarning about native foods and Indigenous farmers — everything from practising agriculture as a traditional custodian, growing bush foods and making sure they're safe to eat, preparing amazing meals and getting Australian native foods to market! Presented in partnership with the Indigenous Knowledge Institute at the University of Melbourne, Inspiring the ACT and Inspiring Victoria.

Uncle **Dave Wandin**, Chair, Wandoon Estate Aboriginal Corporation

Mr **Luke Williams**, School of Health & Biomedical Sciences, RMIT University

Ms **Kerrie Saunders**, Yinarr-ma

Mr **Joshua Gilbert**, Indigenous Co-Chair, Reconciliation NSW

Chair: Associate Professor **Bradley Moggridge**, Indigenous Water Science, University of Canberra



21 August: Let's Torque Grand Final

The annual undergraduate public speaking competition, with fascinating presentations by the next generation of STEM communicators! The Let's Torque event was hosted by the Royal Society of Victoria, supported by Monash Science and Inspiring Victoria.

Featuring presentations by:

Georgina Aiuto (Swinburne University) – “Take a Second for the Future”

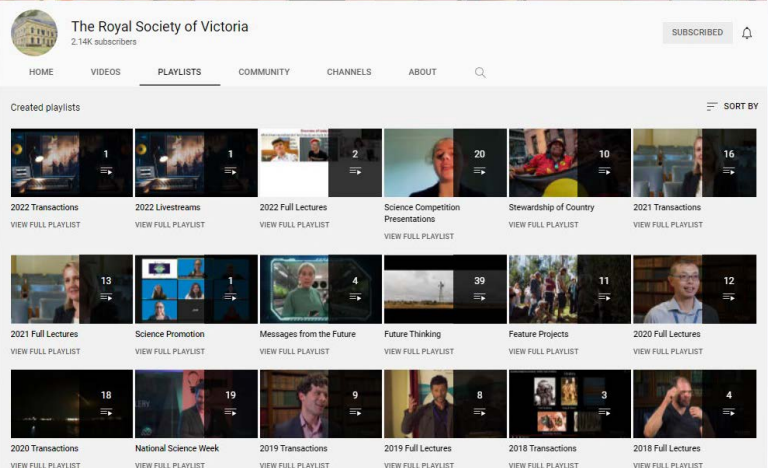
Joshua Nicholls (Swinburne University) – “Bionics: Seeing into the Future”

Luke Antzoulatos (RMIT University) – “Nano-Terminators”

Sanjeeban Chattopadhyay (Swinburne University) – “Permeable Pavements: A Key Design for a Water-sensitive Future”

Outcomes:

Taking our lecture series online has offered a positive result from a negative situation during the pandemic, particularly the practice of live streaming our Zoom webinars via Facebook Live to reach many thousands of viewers – particularly once the event has ended and the video is shared over subsequent days and weeks. All presentations inform an archive on our Facebook page and web site. Many videos were filmed professionally as a contribution to the Inspiring Victoria program and inform the archive at the Society's YouTube channel.



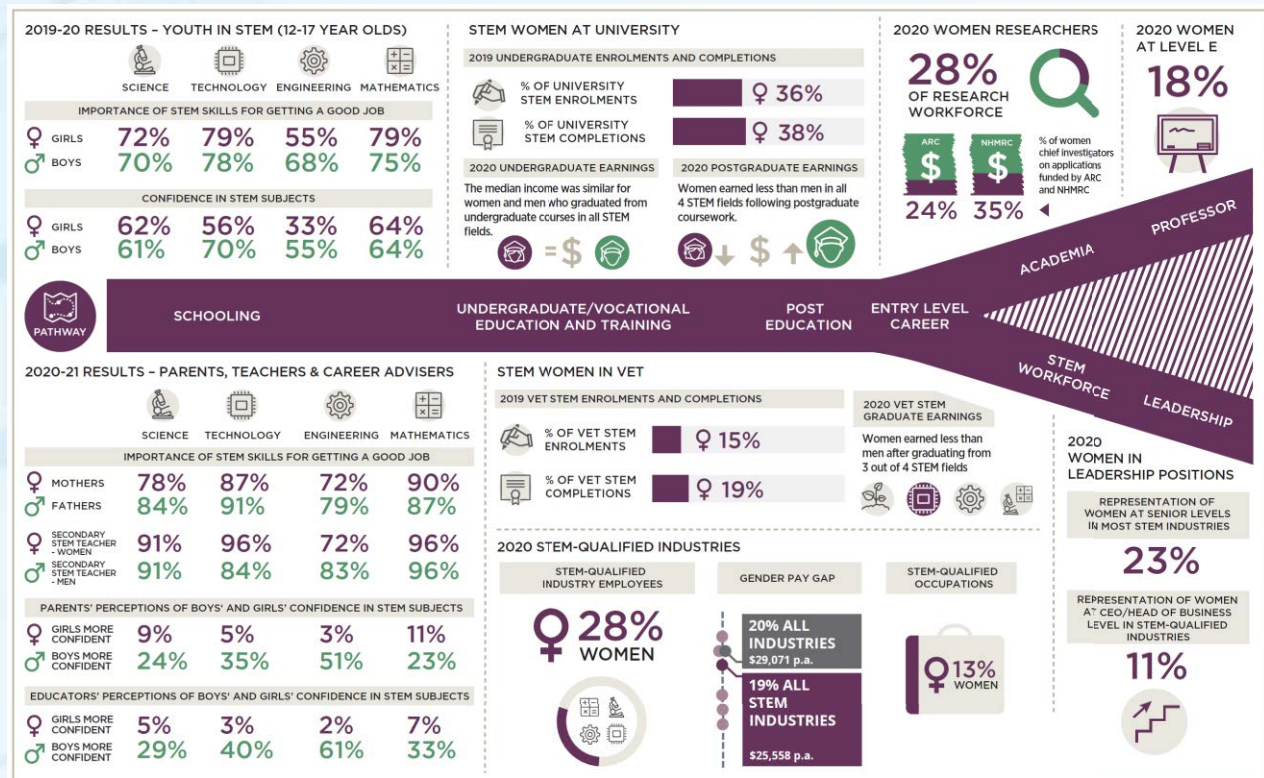
Membership, Fellowship, Policy & Advocacy

Following the setbacks of 2020, it is pleasing to report our metrics have rallied a little, both in total numbers of members and percentages in both gender and cultural diversity.

Our numbers at the end of the year were marginally improved to 525 members up from 509 in 2020. Our average age decreased from 61 to 59 years. Our gender ratio in membership overwhelmingly remains a male representation yet has decreased from 72% to 70% of our members, again suggesting youth membership is the key contributor towards parity in gender representation. The particularly encouraging sign of change is in those members identifying as being from a Cultural And Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background, which rose from 8.51% to 10.1% of our total membership in 2021.

Changes to Membership	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Individual Membership	604	561	587	639	742	588	509	525
Gender Ratio (Women/non-binary : Men)			30 : 70	33 : 67	34 : 66	30 : 70	28 : 72	30 : 70
Average Age (years)			57.1	57	54.4	59	61	59
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Background (%)						5.95	8.51	10.1

Clearly more needs to be done to both improve overall numbers and these representational percentages. In 2020, we committed to building a more diverse membership by continuing to demonstrate visible diversity within our leadership, speakers, membership, staff and outreach programs, a more active recruitment of members on a diversity basis, and through identifying other relevance factors that are yet to be satisfied for the broader scientific community.



Once again, for context, we reference the Australian Government's [2021 STEM Equity Monitor](#) report (infographic above), which reveals girls and young women in secondary schooling overwhelmingly rate the attainment of STEM skills highly in regard to securing "good" future work – yet women represent only 38% of undergraduate STEM course completions, earned less than men in STEM fields following postgraduate coursework, and comprise only 28% of the research

workforce (those applying for grants as chief investigators through the NHMRC and ARC). Women in leadership positions comprise 18% at professorial level E, 23% of senior management in STEM industries and only 11% at the CEO or equivalent levels of same. While correlation does not imply causality, the numbers are compellingly similar to our own.

The public research sector has contracted during the COVID pandemic and continues to suffer from diminished grant funding and opportunities for early career researchers; intense competition over a small pool of postdoctoral academic positions across the sector, coupled with sustained uncertainty over tenure and economic security, has combined to focus postdoctoral destinations on industry and government careers in particular. Industry and government are still relatively new to this particular workforce, and we continue to seek cross-sector workforce integration of research talent and conditions more favourable to sustaining and promoting women through the disproportionate career disruptions associated with primary care and family responsibilities in particular.

Broadening our Scope

Securing gender parity and cultural diversity in RSV membership appears reliant on circumventing the structural inequity stubbornly persistent in the STEM workforce. Pragmatically, we will need to recruit our members more actively beyond academia to bring our concern with promoting the sciences to inform enterprises in other sectors, securing further diversity in experience and expertise to win the translation of valuable research into broader social and economic application.

The RSV has traditionally (but not exclusively) drawn its membership from the academic sector, with a more remote relationship to community, industry and government agencies; incorporating these three other sectors into our Fellowship model is favourable to meeting many of the Society's strategic goals and, importantly, opens our organisational culture to professions and organisations with a more balanced gender base. Other non-government organisations, allied health, primary and secondary teaching, the public service and consultancy services are among these.

To this end, the Society's Council has conducted significant work in restructuring its Fellowship model over the course of 2021, which will inform the appointment of Fellows from 2022.

A College for Science and Society

Recently, the appointment of Fellows of the RSV has been something of an award for a "job well done," whether in scientific careers or as a long-standing Member and leader of the Society. Acknowledging that we must maintain acknowledgement of career achievements in our merit criteria, we now seek to appoint our Fellows at "mid-career" phase; people actively pursuing their professional goals and seeking to make a change in the world through effective knowledge leadership.

Our Fellows are now explicitly appointed as a "brains trust" for the Society and its Members across the disciplines, to be called upon to provide expertise, speak for the Society on matters requiring extensive command of disciplinary or sectoral complexity, and champion the Society's mission within their networks.

Our focus is on the intersection of science and society, with an aim to translate disciplinary expertise into effective actions within each social sector through an interdisciplinary process of knowledge transfer – a "feedback loop" between scholars, public servants, private sector experts and community-based knowledge holders that builds and distributes new knowledge.

Accordingly, we have set out a new structure to populate our new College with excellent individuals, drawing on knowledge leadership across the sectors of Academia, Government, Industry and Community. We are aiming for parity in gender representation.

Fellowship Program – Sectors, Domains and Gender*

		Sectors							
		Academia		Government		Industry		Community	
Domains		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Geosciences									
Ecology & Biodiversity									
STEM Education & Communication									
Food Systems & Agricultural Science									
Advanced Materials & Manufacturing									
Energy & Primary Resources									
Water, Oceans & Atmosphere									
Human Health & Medicine									
Technology & Engineering									
Cultural Knowledge & Practice									
Demography & Planning									
Cosmology & Astrophysics									

*We are aiming for gender parity between women and men, hence the reservations as indicated.
Colleagues with a non-binary or otherwise diverse gender identity may be elected to any Fellowship position.

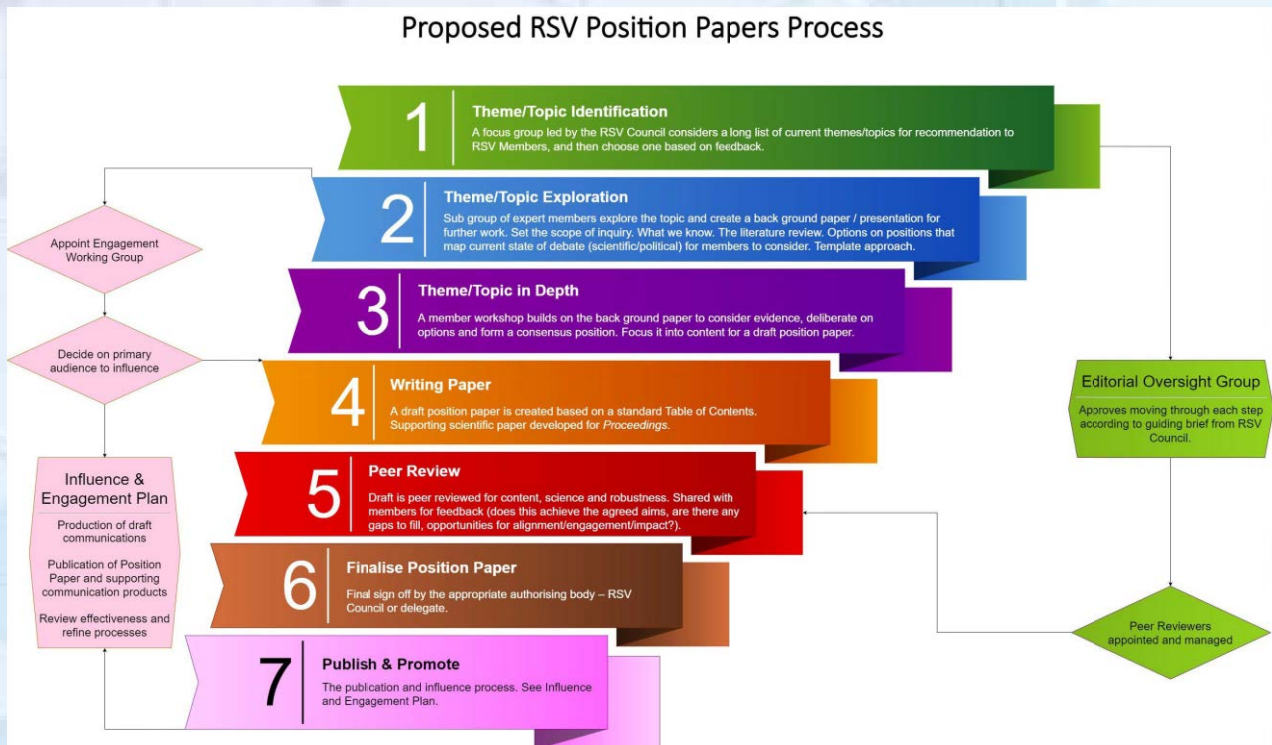
Membership Forums

This revitalised program seeks to establish a growing and enduring corpus of effective, influential, future-focused thought leaders to help our broader membership appreciate the progress made in diverse fields of endeavour, test ideas with experts and participate in deliberative forums informed by robust research and activated through effective networks for impact. More than a traditional symposium typically concerned with showcasing research, this science-based process of interrogating an evidence base to help resolve issues confronting all sectors of society, with the involvement of sectoral representatives, offers relevance for involvement from members drawn from all sectors and, ideally, a platform for generating cross-sector collaboration drawing on a foundation of scientific work.

Beyond the labour involved in setting up the new structures and piloting the Member Forums in 2022, the new program will mean a realignment of the RSV's administrative work, including support for:

- Engagement and consultation with RSV Members to generate the themes/focus of quarterly Forums
- Engagement and consultation with RSV Fellows to populate panels with appropriate expertise
- Engagement and consultation with institutional partners to build an aligned program of public engagement, e.g., evening keynotes at Parliament, National Science Week activities, community network partnerships
- Sourcing nominations and conducting election processes with RSV Fellows to appoint new Fellows
- Building and ticketing Forums
- Running proceedings and articulating Members with aligned partner events
- Commissioning and publishing peer-reviewed papers from the Forums ("Proceedings")
- Summary articles on proceedings/outcomes ("Transactions")
- Commissioning RSV position papers/report cards from proceedings, conducting further consultation processes with RSV Members and Fellows and stewarding approval processes through RSV Council

- Marketing and media campaigns, appointment and management of RSV spokesperson surrounding the release of each position paper/report card



After convening a Focus Group to identify priority themes to address, we polled our membership in late 2021 to determine our first Forum in 2022, with “Biodiversity Conservation and Recovery” emerging as the top priority. Our first forum is set for June 2022.

Membership Categories and Fees

Council has discussed membership issues at all meetings and has taken the decision to reduce our fees as of the end of 2021 to remove barriers to participation, particularly by those who are already members of professional associations for accreditation purposes and learned academies. We have reduced our membership categories to Full Member for those of employment age, Student Member for those enrolled full-time at a Victorian institution, and Fellow for those so elected. All have full voting rights.

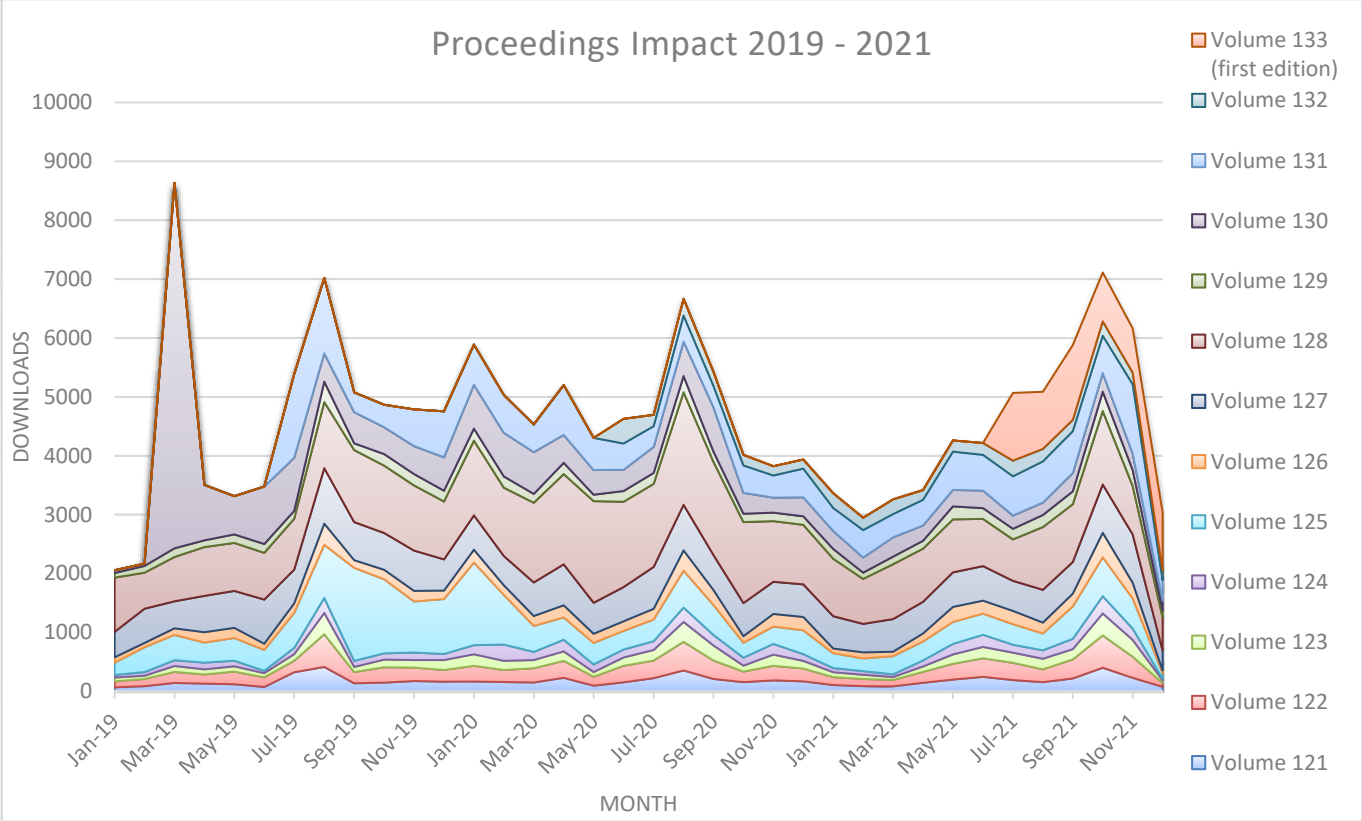
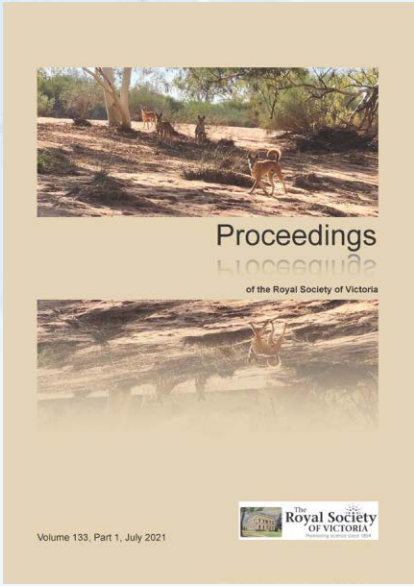
These changes are reflected in our updated By-Laws; further changes to streamline the membership application and appointment process in our Rules (constitution) will be considered by the 2021 Annual General Meeting to be held in May 2022.

Publications, Records & Collections

Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria

Due to enduring COVID restrictions in 2021, our work on archiving and records was once again postponed while we focused on the journal. Volume 133 of the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria* was successfully published online with CSIRO Publishing, with eleven papers published for the whole volume. The first issue (pictured right) featured papers drawn from the Stewardship of Country symposium with the Royal Societies of Australia, which garnered strong interest in the late months of the year.

We continue to offer a free-to-publish, open access journal. With all members and the general scientific community able to download all volumes and individual papers, we are now printing only a handful of hard copies at the end of the year to inform our own collection. We extend thanks to our Editor in Chief, Dr **Bill Birch** AM, and our copy editor, **Barbara Vaughan**, for their excellent work on the journal.



Publicity, Media & Public Relations

We measure our audience size and engagement through media channels to help gauge the 'impact' of our efforts to promote the sciences and the translation of scientific work into a pervasive social knowledge base. Both traditional 'print' media and new social media channels offer opportunities for quantifying impact. Overall, the pandemic has plainly affected the RSV's performance in this key area of community science engagement during the course of 2020.

Social Media

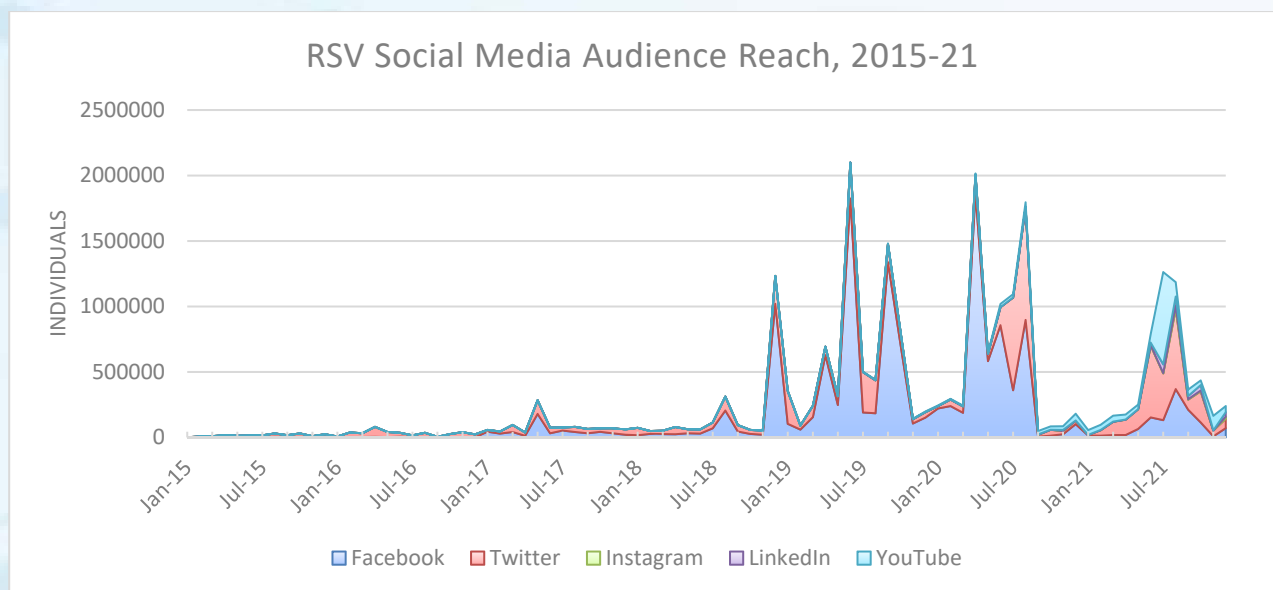
Social Media is a messy and often unpredictable place, a kind of raw medium for human nature to

express itself on many levels. Its value is to provide a science engagement organisation with a direct connection to audience members on a massive scale, and its peril is to enter an unmoderated contest of ideas where the rules of engagement are extremely fluid and subject to the whims of zeitgeist, political acrimony, mental health and the unfortunate propensity for human collectives to resort to logical fallacies, conspiracy theories, scamming, shaming and ridicule in a bid for economic, moral or ideological leverage. While subject to the regulatory regimes of major economic zones, these platforms are pervasively owned by multinational companies and (similar to traditional media conglomerates) appear increasingly prone to ‘editorialising’ through the expression of moderating algorithms, support centre scripting and content policies aligned with the world views and economic interests of their major shareholders.

Regardless, the opportunity to self-publish content for a global audience at a low cost remains a wonder of the contemporary era; as of January 2022, 79.9% of the Australian population over 13 years of age have active social media accounts. While down from 85% in 2020,¹ this nonetheless represents effective market saturation. So, while we must participate to maintain visibility and relevance, it is incumbent upon the RSV to understand how each platform is influenced by current affairs, the vicissitudes of ownership in investing in our subscriber base, and to moderate our presence on these platforms, holding others accountable for their words and opinions while understanding the boundaries of our place in discourse as a representative organisation.

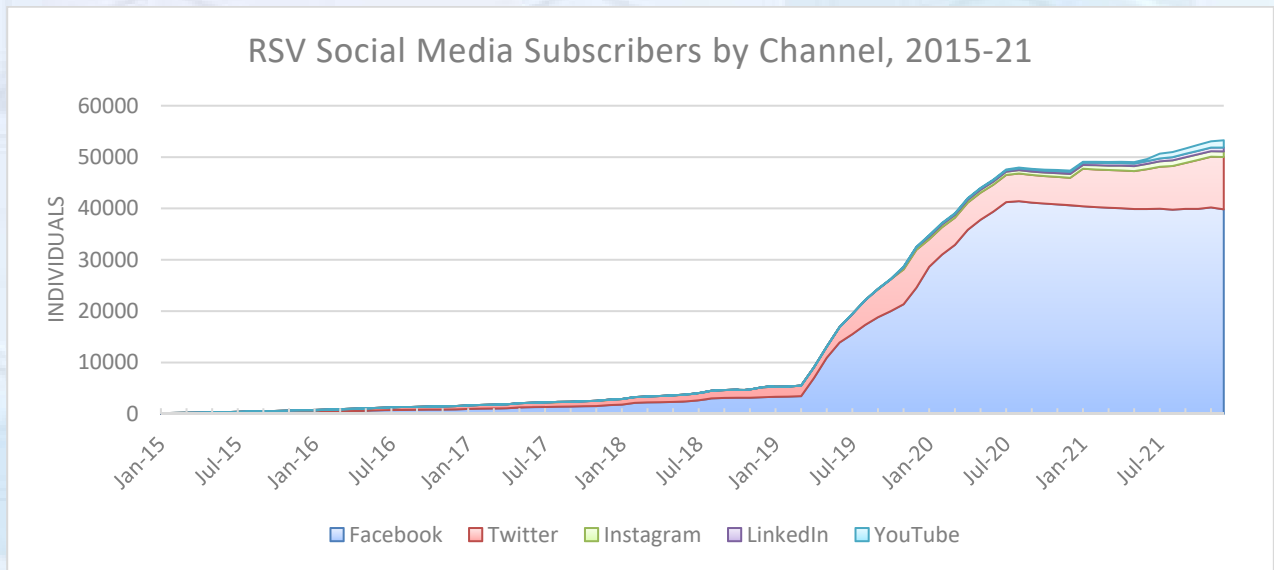
The RSV’s interaction with Victoria’s science community and the broader public continued in 2021 through an emphasis **Twitter** and **Facebook**, with our **LinkedIn** account continuing to build a subscription base. Our **YouTube** channel continued to share high-quality video from our talks and events with our members and supporters, with our most demonstrable impact in terms of audience share and least problematic platform in terms of management and distribution. Facebook sustains our largest subscriber base but has clearly become a less effective platform for audience reach – it appears that while most people possess a Facebook account (17,000,000 Australian users as of December 2021), many no longer actively use it as they once did. In this post “Cambridge Analytica” era, the Society has had some unpleasant experiences with ‘Meta’ (Facebook’s parent company) removing videos and discussions featuring Victorian scientists from their platforms due to algorithms interpreting them as “violating community standards” (unexplained) and we have taken the decision to cease our use of the platform for livestreaming our talks or promoting our programs generally in favour of Twitter and YouTube.

The charts that follow tell something of the story:



¹ <https://www.genroe.com/blog/social-media-statistics-australia/13492>

The chart above represents the number of individuals to whom an RSV news item or video presentation was delivered over the course of the last six years. Our earlier investment in growing our Facebook subscription base gave us an excellent return in audience reach in 2019 and 2020 but has since stalled; Twitter remains a solid performer and YouTube is emerging as a successful new platform for the Society.

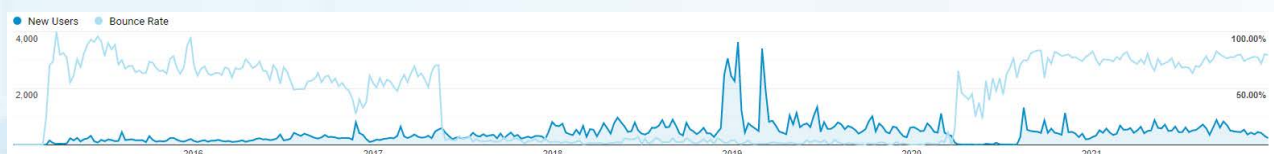


The chart above represents growth in the RSV’s subscriptions, or **active followers** of our social media feeds over the course of the same period. Our followers are the main source of impact for our stories and news items, as these are people who “like” or “share” our content to a broader network of friends, family and colleagues. The trend over five years from just over 100 total subscribers to over 50,000 at the end of 2021 reflects a recent, concerted effort to secure wider audiences in support of National Science Week and the Inspiring Victoria program.

While we continue to share content on the platform, we are no longer investing time or resources in developing our **Facebook** subscription base, which is tapering off as a result. We are focusing our efforts on **Twitter** (5,800,000 Australian users), **YouTube** (16,500,000 Australian visitors) and **LinkedIn** (6,500,000 Australian users).²

RSV Website

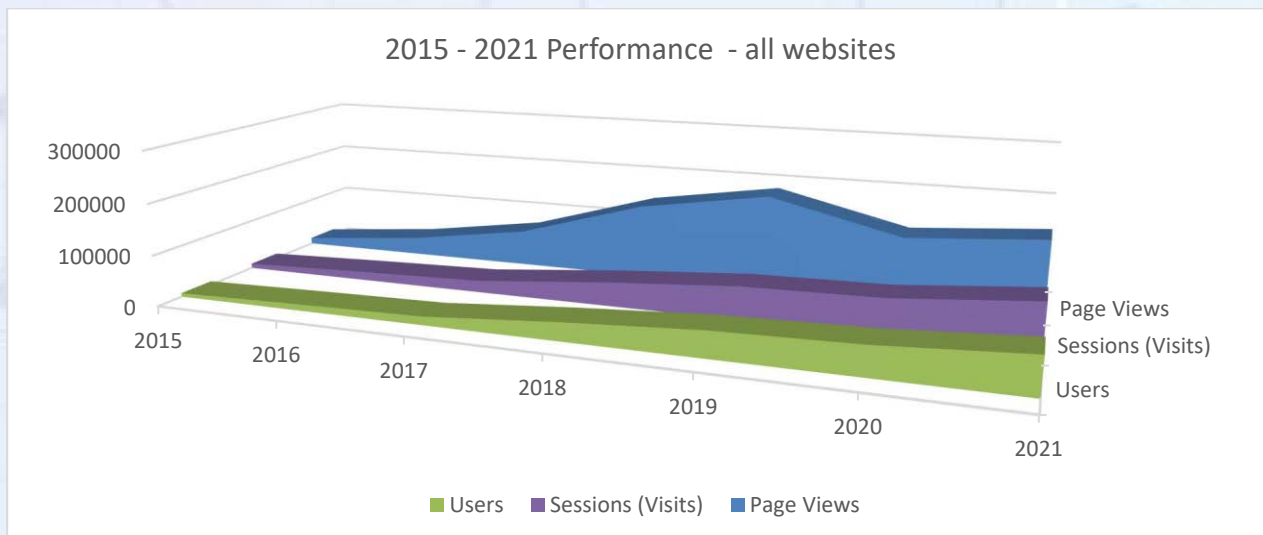
Page Views of rsv.org.au, 2015 - 2021



We’ve been tracking our website usage data through Google Analytics for some years now. Generally our website has been an “online brochure” to inform others of our history, role and purpose, but has also been a platform to showcase upcoming lectures and events and, increasingly, post articles reviewing and reflecting on these – a modern channel for what has traditionally been referred to as our “Transactions.” The creation of content from our presentations and programs has been of a very high standard in 2020, yet the quantity has reduced along with our program’s smaller offering during COVID conditions. My thanks to the outstanding efforts of RSV science engagement officer **Catriona Nguyen-Robertson** (pictured right), with welcome input from **Priya Mohandoss**.



² <https://www.socialmedianews.com.au/social-media-statistics-australia-december-2021/>



Our investment in capturing and editing professional video footage of our lectures, along with interview material featuring our speakers, has created high-quality material for sharing online with members and supporters. The graph below shows the steady growth in audience engagement with our website’s content up to 2019, when we welcomed a total of 35,000 users to our website for a total of 46,000 visits, viewing individual RSV pages/posts 145,000 times. However, 2020 was a much slower year – our efforts were placed in learning and rolling out new methods of event management online, rather than promoting the content, and populating our website.

The graph above shows the “bounce rate,” or the number of visitors who viewed only one page on our website without looking around at other content. Essentially, a low bounce rate is “good,” and it appears we’ve lost some of the hard-won interest of our readership during the manifold distractions of COVID. Back to work!

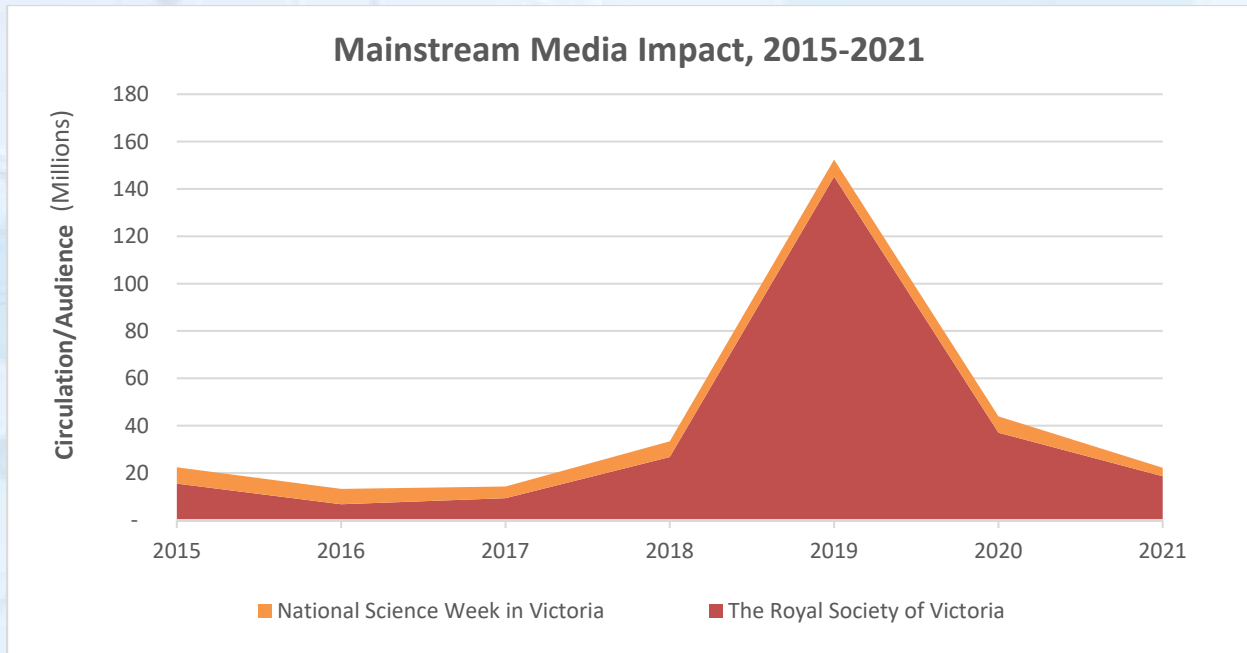
ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA MEDIA COVERAGE 2021

Outlet	Link	Dates	Audience Reach/ Circulation
ABC Radio National	https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/science/friction/mystery-halford-flute-boy-bones/13293480	8 April, 2021	2,444,000
The Australian	https://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/on-campus-blog-daily-news-updates-from-the-tertiary-education-sector/news-story/4ad9e6383084916567666f988e2071fd	15 June, 2021	5,200,000
phys.org	https://phys.org/news/2021-07-sheep-dingo-australia-arid-rangelands.html	30 July, 2021	5,000,000
The Age	https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/we-must-walk-with-victoria-s-first-peoples-on-the-land-they-made-beautiful-20210729-p58e3n.html	9 October, 2021	6,000,000
Food & Drink Business	http://www.foodanddrinkbusiness.com.au/news/webinar-to-tackle-food-waste	11 November, 2021	4,985
Total 2021 Audience Reach:			18,648,985

Traditional & Digital Media

In terms of our core activities and mission, RSV media mentions were generated through publicity for the **Inspiring Victoria** and **National Science Week programs**. However, the global impact of the RSV continued thanks to the interest garnered in recent editions of the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria*, in particular the enduring international interest in the **Moyjil** site at Warrnambool and the **Maryborough meteorite**.

Drawing on 2021 circulation metrics published by each media outlet and ethnic population data published by the ABS, we are able to estimate the impact of traditional journalism concerned with the Royal Society of Victoria.



Outreach & Partnerships

Inspiring Victoria

2021 was the Society's fourth year as the managing organisation for the ambitious **Inspiring Victoria** program, a state-wide science engagement program co-funded by the Royal Society of Victoria, the Commonwealth **Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources**, and the Victorian **Department of Jobs, Precinct and Regions**.



The **Inspiring Victoria Board** was once again Chaired by Victoria's Lead Scientist, **Dr Amanda Caples** with senior members from the RSV, Questacon, Museums Victoria, CSIRO, veski, Citizen Science Victoria, Public Libraries Victoria and the Department of Education's Tech Schools program. The **Victorian Coordinating Committee for National Science Week** functions as a committee of the Board, Chaired by **Ms Kate Barnard**, with representatives from universities, Scienceworks, government, community and industry. These governed and delivered our major community engagement initiatives concerned with regional community STEM engagement and the delivery of National Science Week.

National Science Week - Victoria

The Main Event: ACCLIMATISE.



Anticipating the enduring restrictions surrounding the “world’s longest lockdown” in Melbourne, we once again planned and delivered an online program for National Science Week’s major event in Victoria.

Building on the success of the 2020 program, **Possible Impossible**s, the Victorian Science Week Coordinating Committee developed an online program of activities, stories, forums and interactive events, where audiences were invited to explore the science of sustainability and adaptation with **ACCLIMATISE**.

Inspiring Victoria partnered with a selection of much-loved cultural institutions to deliver our main event program with specially curated content, presented in collaboration with Museums Victoria, the Royal Botanical Gardens Victoria, Zoos Victoria, Public Libraries Victoria, the Parliament of Victoria, the State Library of Victoria, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria and the Royal Society of Victoria.

2021 Special Guests and Program Highlights

The 2021 ACCLIMATISE highlights provide an overview of the incredible array of online events for another year of Science Week in lockdown.

The series commenced with a remarkable panel discussion on Indigenous Food and Agriculture, featuring A/Professor Bradley Moggridge, Uncle Dave Wandin, Auntie Kerrie Saunders, Luke Williams and Joshua Gilbert (pictured right) and wrapped up with



a livestreamed forum titled Collecting Insights, co-hosted by the Parliament of Victoria and featuring scholars from Museums Victoria, Zoos Victoria and the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, demonstrating how Victoria’s natural history, zoological and botanical collections provide insights to our past and collective future.

Outcomes and Impact

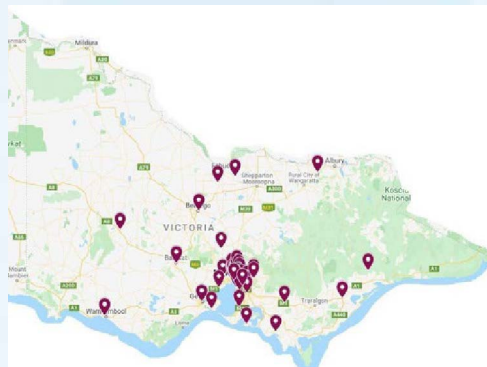
More than 30 events were held across the state under the ACCLIMATISE banner; interestingly, the largest participating age group was those over 50 years of age (38%), although the 36-50 and 18-35 brackets were also well represented on parity (28% and 29% respectively). 64% of survey respondents had never attended a Science Week event before, and 78% indicated they would recommend the ACCLIMATISE program to others.

As of September 2021, the online program had reached **133,300 people**, including a significant interstate audience.

Statewide Program

Predictably, event numbers took a dive during the first two years of the global pandemic, down to 231 in 2020 but rallying in 2021 to **361** (51% public). Most were delivered online.

With the move to online delivery during the pandemic, we became more reliant on social media metrics and survey results to locate our audiences. The pandemic hit regional organisers the hardest – events were overwhelmingly based in metropolitan Melbourne, although many reached regional Victoria, interstate and international audiences. Notably, the Regional Science Champions program, launched in 2020 and continued in 2021, delivered events across regional communities during Science Week.



A seed grant program stimulated statewide activities for National Science Week via our two participating network partners: Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (left) and Public Libraries Victoria (right).

The Regional Champions Project

Recognising the vital role local libraries play as community knowledge hubs, the RSV once again partnered with **Public Libraries Victoria** and **Scienceworks** to deliver the National Science Week Regional Champions Project.

At the outset of the Inspiring Victoria initiative, we sought to stimulate regional STEM engagement activities through our small grants programs. By 2020, we had extended our efforts to overtly build capacity for ongoing delivery through a community of practice in the network represented by Public Libraries Victoria. A joint initiative between Inspiring Victoria, Scienceworks and Public Libraries Victoria, the Regional Science Champions project delivered Professional Development training for staff at regional public libraries in hosting community focused STEM activities.

- How to set up online events
- Science experiment ideas for online STEM shows
- How to engage local Science Ambassadors
- Networking and building partnerships
- Public STEM resources for audience participation from home
- How to maximise social media impact
- Evaluating project success



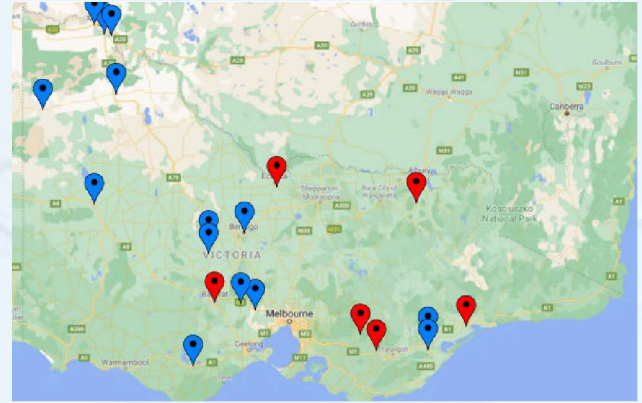
Over 2020 and 2021, participating librarians received training to deliver their own STEM activities to local communities during National Science Week and throughout the year, with a particular focus on how to deliver online programs.

The training was delivered by Scienceworks Programs Manager, Kate Barnard, and participating librarians receive ongoing support from Scienceworks to maintain delivery of online STEM programs to local communities.

Led by **Kate Barnard**, Program Manager with Scienceworks (featured left, top centre, with participants), the project consisted of a six-week mentoring and training program for librarians to become National Science Week ‘Champions’ for their local area. Building skills and relationships between regional communities and state institutions was a key part of the program. We intend for the project to have a lasting impact and build momentum for year-round science engagement

programs in our regional communities.

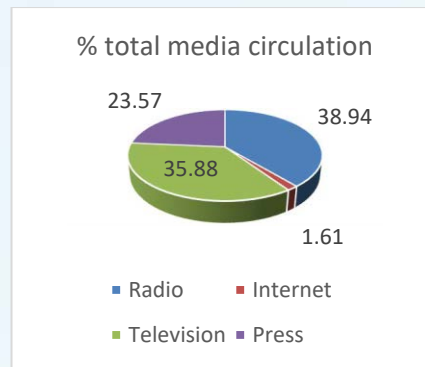
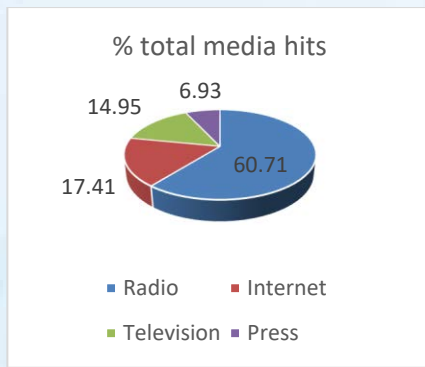
Nine librarians from six libraries across Victoria became the first Regional Science Champions in early 2021. There are now 43 librarians across 21 regional Victorian shires who have participated in a training program to build skills and networks for producing science programs for their communities. We look forward to placing many more pins on this map!



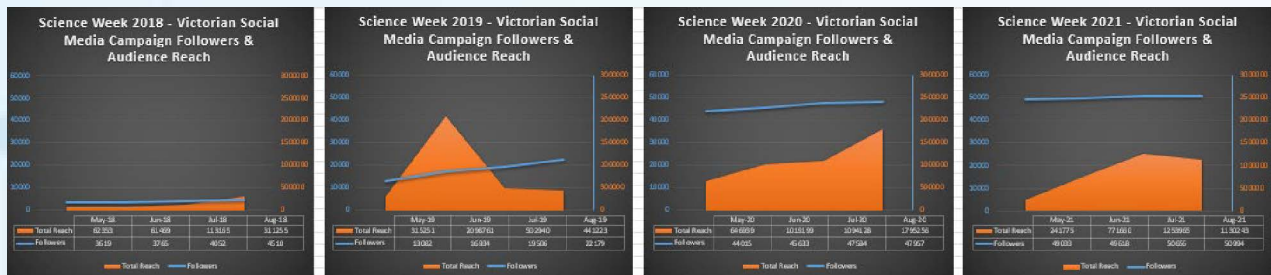
Media Impact

In terms of **traditional media** outlets, radio ran the most items relating to National Science Week 2021 (Victoria) with 394 items, followed by online press outlets, which ran 113.

This coverage provided a total of 649 media hits, reaching a cumulative audience of 3,587,328 people, with a total public relations value of \$2,565,363. While radio was the hero of the day once again in terms of the number of mentions and stories covered, television and press remain powerful media platforms, with circulation ratios far outstripping internet and radio.



Social Media Campaign Followers & Audience Reach – National Science Week




The online nature of this year’s program meant that most National Science Week events were delivered through a **social media** platform. Over the month of August, RSV accounts delivered content to 50,994 subscribers with a total audience reach of 1,130,243 people. Year on year, our subscription base has grown considerably to enable this delivery, settling at the 50,000 mark in 2021, as demonstrated above. We measure the activity from May to August each year, capturing the typical campaign period for raising community awareness of upcoming Science Week activities.

Inspiring Victoria Partnership Network

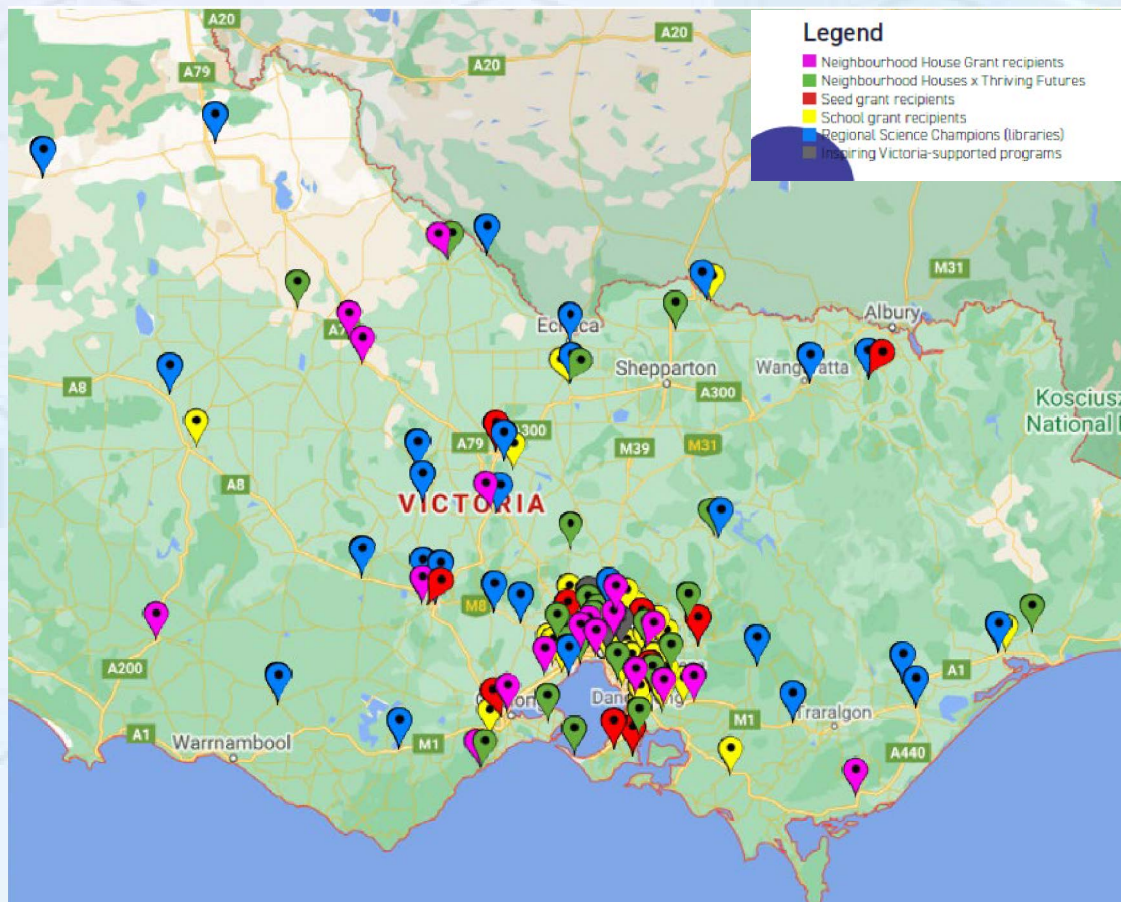
From 2019, the Inspiring Victoria consolidated its efforts in statewide engagement through adopting a partnership approach with the

STEM Catalyst

The Partnership Network program supported small projects such as *STEM Catalyst* at Faulkner Neighbourhood House, an Islamic women’s group building their capacity to deliver electronics training and ecological literacy to local children.



established knowledge networks in place via Public Libraries Victoria, adding 260 public libraries to the 10 Tech Schools we had started out with, offering small grants throughout the year to stimulate local initiatives. The network was joined by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria from 2021, bringing more than 400 community centres into the statewide program, resourced with small grants as represented in the following map.



Climate Change and Environment Program

Our partnership with Neighbourhood Houses Victoria was founded on a project established in collaboration with the Melbourne Museum titled ‘The Climate Change and Environment Program,’ providing climate science literacy through a range of initiatives including our ‘Thriving Futures’ local focus groups.

Designed and delivered by **Kate Phillips**, Senior Curator of Science Exhibitions at Melbourne Museum, these engaged 30 Neighbourhood Houses over the course of 2021.

Additionally, the project has developed a research expert demonstration and public resources platform on the Museums Victoria website to grow its access. The web pages were designed to provide an invitation to participate. They state the position we are facing in unambiguous terms and lead people through a range of ways to take positive actions and get involved.

Colourful conversation starters
This localized visualisation of the changing climate aims to prompt conversations, community understanding and action.

(a) A series of online workshops titled ‘Thriving Future Workshop Series,’ delivered via Zoom to accommodate regional participation (and pandemic conditions).

(b) A set of resources for use during and after the ‘Thriving Future Course’ subsequently made available online to the broader community

(c) “Expert connections forums” with Museums Victoria experts on themes relating to science, ecology and climate change

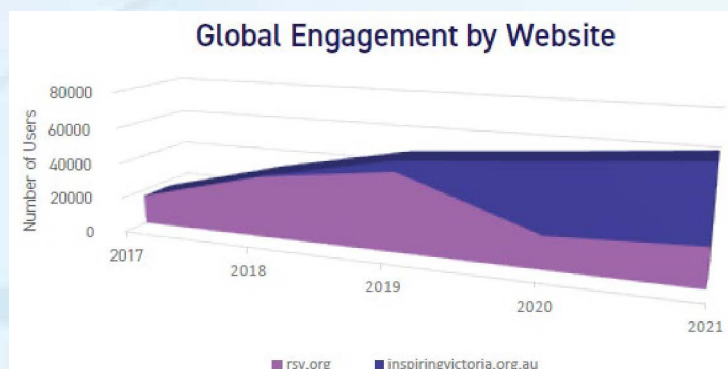
(d) A project Digital Hub hosted on the Museums Victoria website

STEM & Society

Our broadcast initiatives continued to grow and provide an opportunity for regional audiences and, indeed, national audiences to access science content through a ‘civic’ lens – understanding the basis of scientific work in order to make better use of it, essentially as a function of citizenship. Through an evolving partnership established in 2019 with the community engagement and broadcast team at the Parliament of Victoria, we provided four public presentations in 2021, engaging a broad audience base through our combined social media reach.

Online Engagement

While audience participation generally has taken a hit during the pandemic, our online audience has continued its vigorous growth across both the RSV’s main website and the new Inspiring Victoria website, reflecting interest in our efforts to publish the content of speakers, programs and workshops with a range of feature articles, along with our efforts in promoting events hosted on each site.



Auspicees

We continued to auspice the public engagement, grant application and fundraising efforts of the following partner programs in 2021:

Fungi for Land

Fungi for Land are now completing development of a practical guide focused on integrating fungi into current Australian land management tool kits, providing a practical guide for land managers for conservation and restoration-focused management.

Thanks to contributions from individual donors and a major grant of \$50,000 from the **Ngarak Fund** (Australian Communities Foundation), we were able to meet the fundraising goal for this project in 2021 and look forward to the upcoming release of the field guide!

BioQuisitive Community Lab

BioQuisitive is an open community laboratory, a safe environment for people from all walks of life to come and “learn by doing” about biology and life sciences, and to get involved in workshops, classes and projects. By providing open access to practical

Tectonic Plates in Victoria

To demonstrate the difficult process of how modern scientists arrive at a consensus to accept a hypothesis as a theory, the RSV convened a panel of eminent geologists with the Parliament of Victoria and Year 10 students from Northcote High School’s “Big History” class to take us through one of the major revelations of the past century: *tectonic plate theory*.



The site at <https://inspiringvictoria.org.au> was constructed and launched in April 2018 and, with the move to providing an entirely online program from 2020, experienced a substantial increase in internet traffic while the website at <https://rsv.org.au>, typically concerned with promoting physical events, declined in audience share.

experience in the life sciences, BioQusitive provide a valuable resource for community education and community-led projects.

The Phoenix School Program

The Phoenix School Program diverts professional scientific equipment from landfill and donates it to schools in need. Support is sought to extend the program's capacities, from equipment storage and logistics through to engagement with schools on the technical aspects of scientific inquiry.

The BrainSTEM Innovation Challenge

BrainSTEM offers students in metropolitan and regional areas the opportunity to work in a research environment and participate in the journey of scientific discovery, side by side with their university mentor. Programs include a 12-week Innovation Challenge and workshops on building adaptable, resilient minds and design thinking. Support is sought to bring on board more mentors and to offer programs in more rural and remote areas while keeping program costs to low-SES schools and communities as low as possible.

Science for All

Science for All involves people of all ages in multiple projects, leading regular trips into the local forest ecosystems to support scientific field work and provide hands-on learning about how to conduct research. This includes 'Campfires and Science' events and the 'Wild DNA' project, teaching people to test for the presence of critically endangered species using environmental DNA sampling.

Let's Torque

Let's Torque is a STEM public speaking competition for undergraduate students, by undergraduate students, that has been held across Victorian universities since 2017. The mission of the competition is to build students' STEM communication skills through practice and workshops, and spread exciting STEM concepts that could benefit Australia in the future. Co-founders Isobel Campbell and Josh Zail, along with past team members, studied the [Advanced Science - Global Challenges](#) program at Monash University, where they were taught valuable STEM communication skills and were inspired to give all undergraduate students the same opportunity!

Please Support our Auspicees

These are outstanding programs aligned with the RSV's mission to promote scientific literacy for everyone in Victoria. We warmly encourage everyone to learn more about these initiatives and consider providing financial or other forms of support to these commendable efforts – more information is available from <https://rsv.org.au/put-science-to-work/> .

From the Honorary Treasurer



Mr Siddharth Verma MRSV

As Honorary Treasurer it is my duty to report to the Royal Society of Victoria's membership on the financial activities and financial performance of the Society over the last year. The auditor's review statement and annual Financial Report, with extensive notes, are included with this RSV Annual Report; to aid comprehension, I provide further details in this Treasurer's report, in particular offering a perspective on the RSV's core operating costs as distinct from the delivery of outreach activities supported through grant funding and philanthropy. Please note these details are not within the scope of our auditor's review report, which follows in the following section of the Annual Report.

Our organisation is an inherently social enterprise, and COVID has presented a significant challenge to the Society, mostly due to the nature of our income being related to social activities on site. With Melbourne's raft of lockdowns has come the cessation of both forms of utilisation of our building, namely meeting room hire and event hosting. As of late 2021, we have been obliged to cut our staffing base significantly to constrain ongoing costs.

A Going Concern

At the conclusion of this financial year, it is determined that the current assets of the organisation exceed our liabilities. As such the RSV is considered to continue to be a going concern.

It must be acknowledged, however, that many of our assets are not realisable in practical terms; either they are caught up in the remarkable complexity of our property's Crown Grant and regulatory arrangements or are of such significance to the State of Victoria's public research collections as to render any proposed private sale manifestly absurd.

As such, we must adopt a far more conservative outlook than our asset base would suggest, as we are most effectively supported by our small yet healthy investment portfolio. This reliance means we must avoid its value declining beyond a threshold set by Council some years ago. We have been balancing expenditure of investment returns and the liquidation of capital to underwrite recurrent deficits for many years and, while we have accepted some risk in expanding our horizons in recent times, we have also prudently sustained our investment corpus.

We have also taken steps to refine our portfolio in line with the mission and positions taken by the Society with regard to human life and dignity, environmental impacts and the mitigation of anthropogenic climate change, divesting and reinvesting accordingly.

Science Program

The RSV Council completed a three-year program in 2020 and extended its support for Inspiring Victoria for a further year in 2021. Our investment in this statewide outreach program reflects a commitment to demonstrating the relevance of the RSV's mission to the Victorian community, which has been an enormously successful exercise. The reputation and presence of the Society has been strengthened by vibrant partnerships that bring a grass roots network of Victorians together with state institutions aligned with our mission to improve community science engagement and literacy, such as Museums Victoria and the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, who typically operate place-based programs and value the opportunity to engage with regional Victorians in particular.

These activities have sustained our core program beyond a concern with those capable of attending monthly events in our CBD headquarters. Without this relevance and network, it becomes difficult to attract further funding through grants, external benefactors and government agencies. Further, the reputation this affords the RSV is key to the success of future attempts to commercialise certain aspects of our operations in order to attract new revenue streams.

However, the reduction in our staffing base due to COVID impacts has placed our efforts in some jeopardy; we are now stretched very thin, operating with only two staff members (a 1.8 Effective

Full-Time load) in 2022. New structures to leverage the skill base and professional availability of our members are in development, as is the affiliation program set in train by changes to our Rules in 2019. It is a testing time for the Society.

Staffing

Both the Executive Committee and the RSV Council consider the level of staffing for the organisation on a regular basis. Following the reductions of 2020, in 2021 the RSV further reduced our staff loading in anticipation of the reduced use of our facilities and the general downturn in business activities. This has led to the reduction in spending on salaries, as well as a reduction in spend (and/or liabilities) associated with employee benefits and leave; the flow-on effects will be felt during 2022 in particular.

The Hall and Grounds

Enduring COVID-19 pandemic conditions meant we were only able to provide for 7 meetings on site during the year. The **Environmental Protection Authority Victoria** continued their lease on the former Bureau of Meteorology site to undertake air pollution monitoring activities. Science communication agency **Scientell** continued their lease of the large office upstairs, and **Eucalypt Australia** continued their lease of the Nancy Millis Room. **Flexicar** sustained their lease of a carshare space with the provision of a community vehicle adapted for use by local drivers with mobility impairments.

Revenues from the RSV's tenancies, venue hire, and on-site event operations recovered marginally on the previous year's massive downturn with a turnover of \$72,771. Hall hire was marginal with only 7 client bookings able to proceed.

Revenue

Our revenue for this financial year has been buoyed by the concluding contributions from the

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of Meetings		362	353	358	370	243	27	7
Revenue from Tenancies & Venue Hire	\$184,571	\$164,546	\$189,147	\$190,388	\$211,725	\$249,301	\$22,883	\$64,236
Revenue from RSV Events			\$39,358	\$14,720	\$21,068	\$33,876	\$3,753	\$8,535
Total Venue & Events Revenue	\$184,571	\$164,546	\$228,505	\$205,108	\$232,793	\$283,177	\$26,636	\$72,771

Australian Government's JobKeeper program in early 2021, in addition to the Victorian Government's Business Support Fund, which has assisted us in maintaining staff levels earlier in the year. This appears as "Other Revenue" in the table below. We extend our thanks to both levels of government for their kind assistance.

Revenue: RSV Core Programs 2021

	Executive	Fundraising	Membership	Policy and Advocacy	Publications, Records & Collections	Total
<i>Donations and Bequests</i>	\$15,439.12	\$55,064.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$70,503.84
<i>Event and Symposia Income</i>	\$139.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,580.00	\$0.00	\$2,719.64
<i>Franking Credits and Interest Income on Bank Accounts</i>	\$5.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.81

<i>Memberships</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$70,554.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$70,554.04
<i>Other Revenue</i>	\$86,561.61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$86,561.61
<i>Publications and Books</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$642.40	\$642.40
<i>Science Foundation Dividends, Distributions, and Interest Income</i>	\$41,495.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41,495.79
	Science Awards & Prizes	Science History & Heritage	Science Program	Ad Hoc Venue Hire	Leases and Tenancies	Total
<i>Donations and Bequests</i>	\$90.00	\$90.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$180.00
<i>Event and Symposia Income</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,815.68	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,815.68
<i>Leases and Tenancies</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$56,840.28	\$56,840.28
<i>Venue Hire Income</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,862.08	\$0.00	\$7,862.08
Total Revenue						\$343,181.17

Our traditional sources of revenue will continue to be under extreme pressure as the pandemic rolls on and work cultures continue to adapt. In particular, a substantial change in the availability (and price) of office accommodation is already evident.

Revenue: RSV Grants & Partnerships 2021

	Bio-Quisitive	Brain-STEM	Fungi for Land	Let's Torque	Phoenix School Program	Science for All	Total
<i>Donations and Bequests</i>	\$18.00	\$281.13	\$46,975.27	\$0.00	\$318.83	\$45.00	\$47,638.23
<i>Grants</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
	IA - Partnership Network	IA - Science Week Large Event	IA - Science Week Statewide	IA - Staffing	Total		
<i>Grants</i>	\$115,500.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$245,500.00		
<i>Other Revenue</i>	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.00		
Total Revenue					\$293,178.23		

Expenses

There has been a decrease in our operating expenses commensurate with the loss of business in 2021. As a result, we have been in a position to reduce the impact to the Science Foundation funds which have traditionally been used to supplement our operational budget as per the investment mandate currently in place. In part the staff reductions earlier mentioned have helped deliver this result; further reductions in the spend on internet services are forthcoming in 2022.

Expenses: RSV Core Programs 2021

	Executive	Fundraising	Membership	Policy and Advocacy	Publications, Records & Collections	Total
<i>Accounting</i>	\$6,878.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,878.20
<i>Advertising, Promotion and Website</i>	\$1,441.84	\$0.00	\$1,369.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,811.42
<i>Assets < \$20,000</i>	\$453.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$453.64
<i>Bank Fees</i>	\$1,447.48	\$0.00	\$2,777.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,225.44
<i>Books & Subscriptions</i>	\$1,116.68	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$354.55	\$1,471.23
<i>Catering</i>	\$292.47	\$0.00	\$429.55	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$722.02
<i>Cleaning</i>	\$7,987.32	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,987.32
<i>Depreciation</i>	\$165,172.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$165,172.00

<i>Grants and Sponsorships</i>	\$0.00	\$54,407.77	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$54,407.77
<i>Insurance</i>	\$28,672.78	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28,672.78
<i>Investment Manager fees and charges</i>	\$5,619.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,619.27
<i>Office</i>	\$15,711.30	\$0.00	\$1,147.27	\$0.00	\$137.53	\$16,996.10
<i>Postage and Courier</i>	\$104.55	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$36.73	\$67.82
<i>Printing, Publishing & Productions</i>	\$2,440.61	\$0.00	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$14,254.27	\$16,709.88
<i>Professional Services</i>	\$12,440.23	\$0.00	\$4,186.00	\$0.00	-\$284.00	\$16,342.23
<i>Repairs and Maintenance</i>	\$19,074.61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$19,074.61
<i>Stripe Fees</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4.16
<i>Telephones and Internet</i>	\$21,604.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,604.69
<i>Travel and Accommodation</i>	\$103.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$103.70
<i>Utilities and Rates</i>	\$13,251.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,251.16
<i>Wages and Salaries - Permanent Staff</i>	\$20,913.66	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,913.66
<i>Wages and Salaries - Provision for leave</i>	\$4,479.14	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,479.14
<i>Wages and Salaries - Superannuation</i>	\$13,766.10	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,766.10
	Science Awards & Prizes	Science History & Heritage	Science Program	Ad Hoc Venue Hire	Leases and Tenancies	Total
<i>Awards and Prizes</i>	\$7,416.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,416.00
<i>Catering</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$252.98	\$0.00	\$252.98
<i>Office</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$48.68	\$0.00	\$48.68
<i>Wages and Salaries - Casuals</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,230.00	\$0.00	\$13,230.00
<i>Wages and Salaries - Permanent Staff</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28,602.78	\$0.00	\$28,602.78
<i>Wages and Salaries - Provision for leave</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$9,759.40	\$0.00	-\$9,759.40
<i>Wages and Salaries - Superannuation</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,672.17	\$0.00	\$2,672.17
Total Expenses						\$464,197.55

Expenses: RSV Grants & Partnerships 2021

<i>Auspicees</i>	Bio-Quisitive	Brain-STEM	Fungi for Land	Let's Torque	Phoenix School Program	Science for All	Total
<i>Grants and Sponsorships</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$54,407.77	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$59,407.77
<i>Inspiring Victoria</i>	IA - Partnership Network	IA - Science Week Large Event		IA - Science Week Statewide		IA - Staffing	Total
<i>Advertising, Promotion and Website</i>	\$18,720.47	\$1,732.63		\$11,237.58		\$0.00	\$31,690.68
<i>Grants and Sponsorships</i>	\$43,567.36	\$24,000.00		\$37,032.00		\$0.00	\$104,599.36
<i>Office</i>	\$90.91	\$136.36		\$83.32		\$0.00	\$310.59
<i>Postage and Courier</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$40.00		\$0.00	\$40.00
<i>Printing, Publishing & Productions</i>	\$32,758.50	\$0.00		\$1,480.00		\$0.00	\$34,238.50
<i>Professional Services</i>	\$9,457.50	\$500.00		\$600.00		\$0.00	\$10,557.50
<i>Telephones and Internet</i>	\$272.72	\$0.00		\$0.00		\$0.00	\$272.72

Wages and Salaries - Permanent Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$122,229.62	\$122,229.62
Total Expenses					\$363,346.74

Surplus/Deficit and Performance Against Budget

These numbers are based on our operating budget under our accrual accounting regime, rather than our cash position. The Auditor's review report in the section to follow provides the RSV's position on a cash basis.

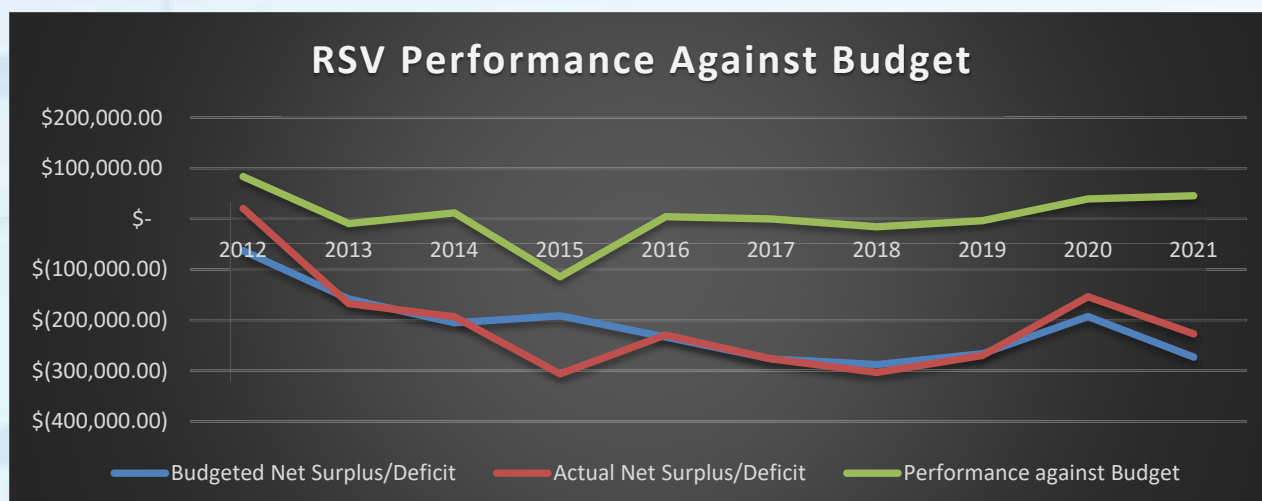
Core Programs

In our core program, a deficit of **-\$121,016.38** is influenced considerably by the depreciation expense line item of \$165,172. This is effectively an accrued write-off of the value of our assets over time. While this is a useful tool for understanding the investment required in the upkeep of our buildings in particular, it does not represent an actual cash expense; if we were to remove it, the result for the core program would be an operating surplus of **\$44,155.62**.

Grants and Partnerships

The Inspiring Victoria program is the Society's major expense, essentially in staffing the program to meet our grant commitments. In 2021, our contribution returned a budgeted deficit across these activity areas of **-\$70,168.51**.

Performance Against Budget



Our budget aim for 2021 was to raise \$567,283 in revenue – we raised \$600,841.91. We anticipated \$840,253 in expenditure – we spent \$828,099.18. Our budgeted deficit was for - \$272,970, our actual deficit was -\$227,257.27. Discounting the depreciation expense line, this returns an operating deficit of -\$62,085.27, a \$45,712.73 favourable variance to budget.

Fundraising 2021

The Society gratefully acknowledges the following Members for their generosity (titles and post-nominals omitted):

Peter Baines
Tessa Barrett
Ken Bradley
Jane Brownrigg
Stewart Burn
Leon Costermans
Carolyn Davis
Martin de Braaf
Ian Endersby

Deb Evans
Patricia Illing
Murray Johns
Rowan Kramer
Austen Hawkins
Katherine Leach
Kathleen Leach
Peter Legge
Andrea Lemon

Murray Littlejohn
John Link
Clive McLennan
Leith Maddock
Louise Marcroft
Sheridan Mayo
Thomas Mole
Lynn Mowson
Greg Noonan

Anthony Palmer
Onisha Patel
David Platz
Sandra Rees

Anthony Robinson
Gary Ruben
Brian Salter-Duke
Lynne Selwood

Constance Thurley-Hart
Nicola Williams

Funds raised from members and supporters in 2021 totalled **\$70,684**. Aside from funds directed to the Society's highest priorities, direct donor allocations were as follows:

Science Awards and Prizes: \$90

Science History and Heritage: \$90

RSV Auspicees:

Innovation Challenge: \$281

Phoenix School Program: \$225

Fungi for Land: \$54,408

Science for All: \$45

In terms of its "highest priorities," the Society directed \$10,558 of funds raised to its awards and prizes: \$6,000 directed to support our **Young Scientist Research Prizes**, \$3,000 to support the **Phillip Law Postdoctoral Award** and \$1,558 to cast the silver **RSV Research Medal**. The balance was directed to providing further assistance to our auspicees and funding our outreach efforts.

We also gratefully acknowledge the contributions of 10 donors who indicated they would prefer to remain anonymous, along with the substantial support received from the following philanthropic foundations and bequests:

Australian Communities Foundation: Ngarak Fund

The PayPal Giving Fund

The Finkel Foundation

The Estate of John Torriero

- **Mr Siddharth Verma, Honorary Treasurer**



The Royal Society of Victoria

ABN: 62145872663

Financial report

(Unaudited)

For the year ended 31 December 2021

Pitcher Partners Advisors Proprietary Limited
Level 13, 664 Collins Street, Docklands VIC 3008
p: +61 3 8610 5000

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**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
ABN: 62145872663**

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Council has the honour to present its financial report of the activities of The Royal Society of Victoria Inc. (a non Reporting Association) for its 167th year of operation: the financial year ended 31 December 2021.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Society during the financial year were the promotion and advancement of pure and applied science and technology.

Significant changes


The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the Society's traditional source of revenues from venue hire and event management, offset with gratitude by government support packages, particularly the JobKeeper program.

Operating result

The deficit of the Society was \$63,085 before depreciation. After charging depreciation, the net deficit was \$228,257.

Signed on behalf of the members of the Council.

Council member: _____



Mr Rob Gell, President

Council member: _____



Dr Catherine de Burgh-Day, Vice-President

Dated this 20th day of May 2022

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
ABN: 62145872663

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue and other income			
Grants, donations and bequests		315,184	295,810
Membership		70,554	70,799
Venue hire / leases income		64,720	56,915
Event and symposia		8,535	37,393
Other revenue		<u>87,244</u>	<u>323,458</u>
		<u>546,237</u>	<u>784,375</u>
Less: expenses			
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(165,172)	(161,063)
Employee benefits expense		(257,147)	(378,883)
Occupancy expense		(21,238)	(28,418)
Advertising expense		(34,502)	(28,050)
Grants and sponsorships		(157,507)	(134,232)
Awards and prizes		(7,870)	(10,688)
Professional services		(27,380)	(98,633)
Printing, publishing and productions		(50,948)	(34,156)
Catering		(975)	(5,148)
Office expenses		(17,324)	(12,679)
Other expenses		<u>(82,416)</u>	<u>(73,684)</u>
		<u>(822,479)</u>	<u>(965,634)</u>
Deficit before income tax expense		(276,242)	(181,259)
RSV Science Foundation			
Dividends, Distributions and Interest		42,439	29,375
Franking Credits		11,165	3,445
Less: Investment Manager Charges & Rebates		<u>(5,619)</u>	<u>(5,320)</u>
Net Result from RSV Science Foundation		47,985	27,500
Net Results (Deficit)		(228,257)	(153,759)
Other comprehensive income			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit and loss</i>			
Increase (Decrease) in Market Value of Science Foundation Investment Portfolio		71,601	(20,212)
Increase (Decrease) in Market Value of Direct Shares		<u>(395)</u>	<u>1,515</u>
		<u>71,206</u>	<u>(18,697)</u>
Other comprehensive income for the year		<u>71,206</u>	<u>(18,697)</u>
Total comprehensive income		<u>(157,051)</u>	<u>(172,456)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
ABN: 62145872663

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	76,619	63,390
Receivables	4	44,978	75,501
Inventories	5	13,115	13,251
Other assets	6	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>
Total current assets		<u>134,912</u>	<u>152,342</u>
Non-current assets			
Investments at fair value	7	810,808	753,741
Property, plant and equipment	8	<u>6,432,542</u>	<u>6,584,579</u>
Total non-current assets		<u>7,243,350</u>	<u>7,338,320</u>
Total assets		<u>7,378,262</u>	<u>7,490,662</u>
Current liabilities			
Payables	9	16,909	59,441
Provisions	10	10,479	10,301
Other liabilities		<u>96,250</u>	<u>6,500</u>
Total current liabilities		<u>123,638</u>	<u>76,242</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions	10	<u>22,556</u>	<u>25,301</u>
Total non-current liabilities		<u>22,556</u>	<u>25,301</u>
Total liabilities		<u>146,194</u>	<u>101,543</u>
Net assets		<u>7,232,068</u>	<u>7,389,119</u>
Members funds			
Reserves	11	7,677,491	7,606,285
Accumulated deficit		<u>(445,423)</u>	<u>(217,166)</u>
Total members funds		<u>7,232,068</u>	<u>7,389,119</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
ABN: 62145872663

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Reserves	Accumulated deficit	Total equity
	\$	\$	\$
Balance as at 1 January 2020	7,624,982	(63,407)	7,561,575
Deficit for the year	-	(153,759)	(153,759)
Increase (Decrease) in Market Value of Science Foundation Investment Portfolio	(20,212)	-	(20,212)
Increase (Decrease) in Market Value of Direct Shares	<u>1,515</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,515</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>(18,697)</u>	<u>(153,759)</u>	<u>(172,456)</u>
Balance as at 1 January 2021	7,606,285	(217,166)	7,389,119
Deficit for the year	-	(228,257)	(228,257)
Increase (Decrease) in Market Value of Science Foundation Investment Portfolio	71,601	-	71,601
Increase (Decrease) in Market Value of Direct Shares	<u>(395)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(395)</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>71,206</u>	<u>(228,257)</u>	<u>(157,051)</u>
Balance as at 31 December 2021	<u>7,677,491</u>	<u>(445,423)</u>	<u>7,232,068</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
ABN: 62145872663

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		\$	\$
Cash flow from operating activities			
Cash receipts from Customers, Members and Government		647,986	804,043
Payments to suppliers and employees		<u>(659,434)</u>	<u>(821,653)</u>
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities		<u>(11,448)</u>	<u>(17,610)</u>
Cash flow from investing activities			
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(13,135)	(6,263)
Drawdown of investment		-	40,000
Interest, Dividends and manged fund distribution		<u>37,808</u>	<u>27,803</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>24,673</u>	<u>61,540</u>
Reconciliation of cash			
Cash at beginning of the financial year		63,394	19,464
Net increase in cash held		<u>13,225</u>	<u>43,930</u>
Cash at end of financial year		<u><u>76,619</u></u>	<u><u>63,394</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* and Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Interpretations and other applicable authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

The Royal Society of Victoria is a not-for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The financial report was approved by the council as at the date of the financial report for the year ended 31 December 2021.

The following are the significant accounting policies adopted by the association in the preparation and presentation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of preparation of the financial report

Historical Cost Convention

The financial report has been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by revaluations to fair value for certain classes of assets and liabilities as described in the accounting policies.

(b) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with current year disclosures.

(c) Employee benefits

(i) Short-term employee benefit obligations

Liabilities arising in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and other employee benefits (other than termination benefits) expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the reporting period are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts based on remuneration rates which are expected to be paid when the liability is settled. The expected cost of short-term employee benefits in the form of compensated absences such as annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. All other short-term employee benefit obligations are presented as payables in the statement of financial position.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(c) Employee benefits (Continued)

(ii) Long-term employee benefit obligations

The provision for other long-term employee benefits, including obligations for long service leave and annual leave, which are not expected to be settled wholly before twelve months after the end of the reporting period, are measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflow to be made in respect of the services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee turnover, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on government bonds that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits will be paid. Any remeasurements for changes in assumptions of obligations for other long-term employee benefits are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the change occurs.

Other long-term employee benefit obligations are presented as current liabilities in the statement of financial position if the association does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur. All other long-term employee benefit obligations are presented as non-current liabilities in the statement of financial position.

(d) Financial instruments

Long-term equity instruments

Long-term equity instruments comprise ordinary shares in listed entities that are not held for trading. On initial recognition, investments identified by the association as long-term equity instruments are irrevocably designated (and measured) at fair value through other comprehensive income. This election has been made as the members believe that to otherwise recognise changes in the fair value of these investments in profit or loss would be inconsistent with the objective of holding the investments for the long term.

(e) Going concern

The financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis, which contemplates continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and the settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business.

The association incurred a loss from ordinary activities of \$228,257 during the year ended 31 December 2021. As at 31 December 2021 the current assets and financial assets exceeded liabilities by \$799,526. The management note that the forecasts include significant grant and donation income is required for activity levels to be maintained over the next twelve months, and these inflows are not certain at this time. The association continues to seek to address the cash requirements by seeking new grants and to sell the investment portfolio if required.

The financial report does not include any adjustment to the recoverability or classification of recorded asset amounts nor to the amounts or classification of liabilities that might be necessary should the association be unable to continue as going concern.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(f) Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(g) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of plant and equipment is measured at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment is measured on the cost basis.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all other property, plant and equipment is depreciated over their estimated useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held available for use, consistent with the estimated consumption of the economic benefits embodied in the asset.

Class of fixed asset	Depreciation rates	Depreciation basis
Land and buildings at cost	0-3%	Straight line
Paintings and art collection	1%	Straight line
Furniture, fixtures and fittings at cost	1-8%	Straight line
Computer equipment at cost	5-33%	Straight line

(h) Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods have passed to the buyer and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
ABN: 62145872663

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
NOTE 2: SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)		
Deficit before income tax has been determined after:		
Cost of sales		
- Purchases/Materials used	-	38
Depreciation		
- Property, plant and equipment	165,172	161,063
Franking credits and interest income	(11,165)	(3,445)
Employee benefits	257,147	378,883
 NOTE 3: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash on hand	88	88
Cash at bank	<u>76,531</u>	<u>63,302</u>
	<u><u>76,619</u></u>	<u><u>63,390</u></u>
 NOTE 4: RECEIVABLES		
CURRENT		
Receivables from contracts with customers	31,000	45,004
Other receivables		
- Sundry debtors	13,978	9,347
- JobKeeper receivable	<u>-</u>	<u>21,150</u>
	<u><u>44,978</u></u>	<u><u>75,501</u></u>
 NOTE 5: INVENTORIES		
CURRENT		
<i>At cost</i>		
Publications and coins	<u>13,115</u>	<u>13,251</u>
 NOTE 6: OTHER ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Prepayments	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
ABN: 62145872663

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
NOTE 7: INVESTMENTS AT FAIR VALUE		
NON CURRENT		
Equity investments at fair value	<u>810,808</u>	<u>753,741</u>
 NOTE 8: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Buildings		
Deemed cost	4,790,000	4,790,000
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(770,344)</u>	<u>(626,631)</u>
	<u>4,019,656</u>	<u>4,163,369</u>
Painting and art collection at cost	19,818	19,818
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,178)</u>	<u>(1,980)</u>
	17,640	17,838
Furniture, fixtures and fittings at cost	31,522	31,522
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(6,636)</u>	<u>(4,455)</u>
	24,886	27,067
Computer equipment at cost	181,018	167,883
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(122,463)</u>	<u>(103,383)</u>
	58,555	64,500
Burke and Wills collection at valuation	2,225,000	2,225,000
Library collection at valuation	<u>86,805</u>	<u>86,805</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>6,432,542</u>	<u>6,584,579</u>

(a) Valuations

The buildings carrying value was determined by reference to independent valuations previously obtained on August 2016 from Jardine Llyoyd Thompson Pty Ltd. Valuations were performed on a reinstatement basis representing the replacement cost of an equivalent asset, and is viewed to be the fair value of the properties to enable the entity to further its objectives.

For clarity, no freehold interest is owned by the Society. The asset is carried on the basis of a right of use.

Refer to Note 11: Fair Value Measurements for additional information on the fair value of property, plant and equipment.

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
ABN: 62145872663

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
NOTE 8: PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)		
(b) Reconciliations		
Reconciliation of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the current financial year		
<i>Buildings</i>		
Opening carrying amount	4,163,369	4,307,082
Depreciation expense	<u>(143,713)</u>	<u>(143,713)</u>
Closing carrying amount	<u>4,019,656</u>	<u>4,163,369</u>
<i>Painting and Art Collection</i>		
Opening carrying amount	17,838	18,036
Depreciation expense	<u>(198)</u>	<u>(198)</u>
Closing carrying amount	<u>17,640</u>	<u>17,838</u>
<i>Furniture, fixtures and fittings</i>		
Opening carrying amount	27,067	29,248
Depreciation expense	<u>(2,181)</u>	<u>(2,181)</u>
Closing carrying amount	<u>24,886</u>	<u>27,067</u>
<i>Computer equipment</i>		
Opening carrying amount	64,500	73,208
Additions	13,135	6,263
Depreciation expense	<u>(19,080)</u>	<u>(14,971)</u>
Closing carrying amount	<u>58,555</u>	<u>64,500</u>
NOTE 9: PAYABLES		
CURRENT		
<i>Unsecured liabilities</i>		
Trade creditors	1,975	-
Superannuation Payable	1,649	2,594
GST credits	5,864	7,763
Sundry creditors	<u>7,421</u>	<u>49,084</u>
	<u>16,909</u>	<u>59,441</u>

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
ABN: 62145872663

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
NOTE 10: PROVISIONS		
CURRENT		
Employee benefits	<u>10,479</u>	<u>10,301</u>
NON CURRENT		
Employee benefits	<u>22,556</u>	<u>25,301</u>

NOTE 11: RESERVES

Building revaluation reserve	11(a)	4,995,530	4,995,530
Burke and Wills Collection reserve	11(b)	2,225,000	2,225,000
Investment revaluation reserve	11(c)	497,397	426,191
Library collection revaluation reserve	11(d)	86,805	86,805
Devaluation of Fixtures and Fittings	11(e)	<u>(127,241)</u>	<u>(127,241)</u>
		<u>7,677,491</u>	<u>7,606,285</u>

(a) Building revaluation reserve

The Royal Society Building (8 La Trobe Street, Melbourne) and cottage (6 La Trobe Street, Melbourne) was valued during 2016. This valuation was provided by Jardine Lloyd Thompson Pty Ltd.

Opening balance	<u>4,995,530</u>	<u>4,995,530</u>
	2021	2020
	\$	\$

(b) Burke and Wills Collection reserve

The Burke and Wills Collection owned by the Society and held by the State Library of Victoria, was independently valued during 2011. This valuation was provided by Director Collections & Access, State Library Victoria.

Opening balance	<u>2,225,000</u>	<u>2,225,000</u>
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(c) Investment revaluation reserve

The investment revaluation reserve is used to record movements in market value of the investment portfolio, deemed to be held to maturity.

Movements in reserve

Opening balance	426,191	444,888
Increase (Decrease) in Market Value of Science Foundation Investment Portfolio	71,601	(20,212)
Increase (Decrease) in Market Value of Direct Shares	<u>(395)</u>	<u>1,515</u>
Closing balance	<u>497,397</u>	<u>426,191</u>

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
ABN: 62145872663

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
NOTE 11: RESERVES (CONTINUED)		
(d) Library collection revaluation reserve		
An independent valuation was obtained in 2010. There is no documentation to support this historical figure.		
Opening balance	<u>86,805</u>	<u>86,805</u>
Closing balance	<u>86,805</u>	<u>86,805</u>
(e) Revaluation of Fixtures and Fittings		
Opening balance	<u>(127,241)</u>	<u>(127,241)</u>
Closing balance	<u>(127,241)</u>	<u>(127,241)</u>

NOTE 12: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

(a) Council disclosure

The council are not remunerated and there are no other related parties.

NOTE 13: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION

Compensation received by key management personnel of the association

- Total compensation	<u>89,102</u>	<u>96,238</u>
	<u>89,102</u>	<u>96,238</u>

NOTE 14: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

The World Health Organisation declared a pandemic in relation to the COVID-19 virus on March 11 2020. As at the date of signing these financial statements, the impact of the virus on the association continues and includes reduced venue hire and disruption of member events, often now held on online platforms.

Aside from the above, there has been no matters or circumstances, which have arisen since year end that have significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- a) the operations, in financial years subsequent to year end, of the association, or
- b) the results of those operations, or
- c) the state of affairs in financial years subsequent to year end, of the association.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

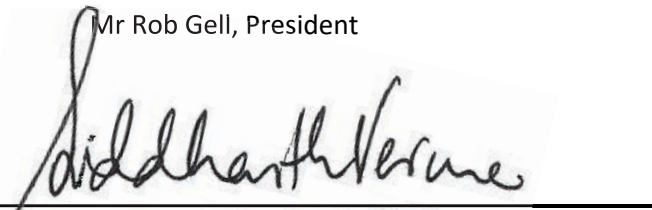
In the opinion of the council the financial report as set out on pages 3-14:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of The Royal Society of Victoria as at 31 December 2021 and performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards-Reduced Disclosure Requirements and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that The Royal Society of Victoria will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Council and is signed for and on behalf of the Council by:

President: 

Mr Rob Gell, President

Treasurer: 

Mr Siddharth Verma, Honorary Treasurer

Dated this 20th day of May 2022

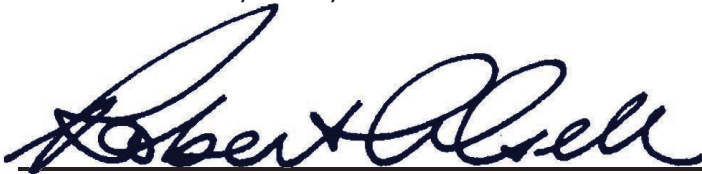
**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
ABN: 62145872663**

CERTIFICATE BY MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

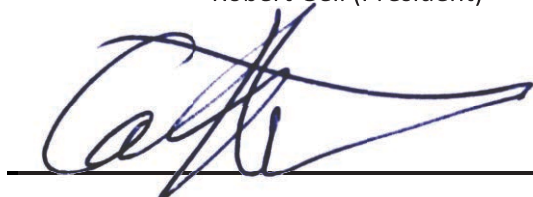
I, Robert Gell of 49 Oxford Street, Collingwood, Victoria 3066 and I, Catherine de Burgh-Day of 2-113 Ballarat Road, Footscray, Victoria 3011, certify that:

- (a) We are members of the Council of The Royal Society of Victoria.
- (b) We attended the annual general meeting of the association held on 26 May, 2022.
- (c) We are authorised by the attached resolution of the Council to sign this certificate.
- (d) This annual statement was submitted to the members of the association at its annual general meeting.

Dated this 26th day of May 2022



Robert Gell (President)



Catherine de Burgh-Day (Vice President)

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
ABN: 62145872663

REVIEW REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Report on the Financial Report

We have reviewed the accompanying financial report of The Royal Society of Victoria, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in members funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

Council's 'Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Council of The Royal Society of Victoria are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 "ACNC Act" and for such internal controls as the Council determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Assurance Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report. We conducted our review in accordance with Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2400 Review of a Financial Report Performed by an Assurance Practitioner Who is Not the Auditor of the Entity. ASRE 2400 requires us to conclude whether anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report, taken as a whole, is not prepared in all material respects in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements. This Standard also requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of a financial report in accordance with ASRE 2400 is a limited assurance engagement. The assurance practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making enquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less than those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on this financial report.

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 Review of a Financial Report: Company Limited by Guarantee or an Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act or Other Applicable Legislation or Regulation, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the ACNC Act including: giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 31 December 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 "ACNC Regulation". ASRE 2415 requires that we comply with the ethical

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
ABN: 62145872663

REVIEW REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA


requirements relevant to the review of the financial report

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

Conclusion


Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report of The Royal Society of Victoria does not satisfy the requirements of Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 31 December 2021 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.



M J HARRISON
Partner

Date 27 May 2022



PITCHER PARTNERS
MELBOURNE

